

Second Alzheimer gene located

NEW YORK, May 8, (AP): A study has found evidence for the approximate location of a second defective gene that helps cause Alzheimer's disease, a possible step toward developing a therapy, a researcher said yesterday.

The gene appears linked to a form of the disease that runs in families and strikes at an average age of 69, said Dr. Allen D. Roses of the Duke University medical center in Durham, North Carolina.

He said that late onset more closely resembles the kind of Alzheimer's "that everybody's worried about" than does the younger age associated with a genetic defect located earlier.

Alzheimer's disease is a progressive, degenerative disorder that attacks the brain and impairs memory, thinking and behavior. No cause or cure is known.

Roses reported the study last week at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Neurology.

In a telephone interview yesterday he said it is not clear what percentage of Alzheimer's cases is accounted for by the form of the disease his research group studied.

"We think that anything we find in what is recognized as late-onset familial Alzheimer's disease will certainly have applicability, or can be tested for applicability, to those people who appear to be sporadic cases," he said.

"So that if in fact we can find a gene and we can develop a rational therapy based on what we find, that therapy certainly ought to be tried in the sporadic." The study was aimed at finding a location for the second gene among the 23 pairs of chromosomes found in most cells of the body.

Results suggest a "very high likelihood" that a defective gene conferring susceptibility to late-onset familial Alzheimer's resides in a portion of the chromosome numbered 19, Roses said.

In 1987, other researchers said they had found evidence that a gene or genes in a region of chromosome 21 was linked to a form of Alzheimer's that strikes before age 65.

The new work "sort of shines a flashlight on a new area for researchers to pursue," Roses said.

Aids group to boycott meet

NEW YORK, May 8, (UPI): A leading group in the fight against AIDS yesterday joined a boycott by more than 100 other health organizations worldwide of an upcoming international AIDS conference in San Francisco.

Jeffrey Bruff, executive director of Gay Men's Health Crisis, said the action represented a "last ditch effort" to force the United States to change a regulation barring entry to people infected by the virus that causes the disease.

Bruff, whose non-profit group is the oldest and largest AIDS service group in the country, said there was no medical justification for the law, sponsored by right-wing Senator Jesse Helms, a north Carolina Republican.

"Walls cannot protect us from AIDS," he said, echoing a slogan used in full-page advertisements placed by his group calling for repeal of the law.

"Only knowledge can." The conference, held last year in Montreal, is regarded as the premier scientific meeting on AIDS worldwide.

Hoffman, Turner nominated

1990 Tonys for the best of Broadway

NEW YORK, May 8, (AP): Movie stars Dustin Hoffman, Kathleen Turner, Maggie Smith and Tom Hulce won recognition for their work on stage in the 1990 Tony nominations for the best of Broadway.

Two lavish musicals, "Grand Hotel" and "City of Angels," dominated the nominations announced yesterday.

"Grand Hotel," a Tommy tune musical set in 1920s Berlin, led the field in the musical category with 12 nominations. "City of Angels," a 1940s Los Angeles detective musical, garnered 11.

Both shows were nominated for best musical along with Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Aspects of Love" and "Meet Me in St. Louis," a stage version of the MGM musical.

The winners will be announced June 3.

The Piano Lesson by August Wilson, the winner of this year's Pulitzer Prize for drama, is the top contender for best play. It will face "Prelude to a Kiss," a comic fantasy by Craig Lucas, "Lettice and Lovage," by Peter Shaffer, and "The Grapes of Wrath," an adaptation by Frank Galati of John Steinbeck's novel.

Smith was the favorite to win the best actress award for her performance as an eccentric British tour guide in "Lettice and Lovage."

Her competition will be newcomer Mary Louise Parker of "Prelude to a Kiss," Geraldine James, who played Portia in a revival of "The Merchant of Venice," and Turner, who is Maggie in a new production of Tennessee Williams' "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof."



Stage and screen star Kathleen Turner shows off her Tony nomination for a leading actress in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* at a press conference to announce the Tony nominations in New York on Monday. Ms. Turner is the hostess for the 44th annual Tonys which will be presented on June 3. (Reuters wirephoto)

Tin Roof."

Hoffman, snubbed by Tony nominators six years ago for his role in a revival of "Death of a Salesman," was nominated as best actor for his portrayal of Shylock in "The Merchant of Venice."

Bush will veto mandated family leave: Sununu

WASHINGTON, May 8, (AP): President George Bush will veto any bill requiring employers to give time off to workers with new babies or family illness, White House Chief of Staff John Sununu told business leaders.

Sununu threatened any version of the pending "family leave" bill that would mandate

such an employee benefit, according to business group lobbyists who attended a White House meeting with him. Alise Glenn, deputy White House spokeswoman, later confirmed he had made such remarks.

The Family and Medical Leave Act would require businesses with 50 or more employees

to offer unpaid time off for the care of newborn, newly adopted or seriously ill children, as well as to deal with personal health problems or to tend ill spouses or parents.

The bill, which has bipartisan support, is scheduled for House action tomorrow. The bill is

opposed by the US Chamber of Commerce and other business lobbying groups.

Mary Tavenner, a lobbyist for the National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors, said businesses opposed the measure because of its cost and contended that many employers already offer better benefits.

Under the House bill, employers would have to offer up to 10 weeks of unpaid family leave over a two-year period and up to 15 weeks a year for a sick worker.

An employee returning from leave must be restored to his or her previous job or an equivalent

position, and employers would have to continue health insurance benefits for those on leave.

Federal workers would have the same guarantees, with even longer unpaid leave — 18 weeks for family leave over two years and 27 weeks a year for medical

leave. A group supporting the proposal, the Institute for Women's Policy Research, released a study yesterday contending that workers suffer substantial earnings losses after the birth of a child or during illness because many don't have the right to return to their jobs.



'Kiss' sold for \$6.05 million

Roy Lichtenstein's 1962 painting 'Kiss II' (above) was sold to a Japanese gallery on Monday for \$6.05 million, a record for the artist, during the first major auction in the spring season at Christie's.

Records were set for work by 10 artists in the sale, which took place in the auction house's Park Avenue offices, and was dominated by abstract expressionists.

A 1962 oil painting by Jean Dubuffet titled 'Pese Cheveu' sold for \$5.17 million, double the expected sale price and a record for the artist, Christie's said.

Lichtenstein's 'Kiss II,' a 57-by-67-inch (170-cm) cartoon image of lovers embracing, was bought by the Fujii Gallery of Tokyo for a collector identified only as Mr. Waniuchi, Christie's officials said.

The painting, which was originally sold to a Swiss gallery for \$1.01 million in 1962 and was owned by a Swiss family, was expected to net between \$5 million and \$7 million.

The sale price surpassed the record \$5.5 million paid for the 1963 'Torpedo' by Los, which was sold at Christie's in November 1989.

A total of 51 lots were sold for \$40.2 million in the first major auction of the spring season. An auction of impressionist works was scheduled for next week.

Records for individual artists were set by a 1955 painting titled '1955-D' by Clifford Still, which sold for \$1.1 million, and a painting called 'Round the World' by Sam Francis, which sold for \$1.87 million.

High winds kill 8 in Washington

Flooding in Texas

SPOKANE, Washington, May 8, (AP): Authorities have abandoned their search for a boy lost in a boating accident when high winds battered Washington state and British Columbia over the weekend. Boating and other accidents left at least eight dead and three missing.

Remnants of the winds reached 30 knots yesterday, forcing those looking for 5-year-old William Yeoman in the Columbia river to rely on a plane instead of a boat.

Also yesterday, a coast guard helicopter spotted the body of Brian Bell, 22, in Puget Sound near the mouth of Discovery Bay, said petty officer Dennis Hall of the coast guard's Seattle office. Later in the day, the coast guard recovered the body of Bell's fishing companion, John Hoscoule III, 34. The two had been in a 15-foot (5-metre) boat that sank in Saturday's storm.

Rural Texans stubbornly stayed by their homes as the Trinity River — swollen from the worst northern Texas flooding in more than 80 years — rolled southward toward the Gulf of Mexico Tuesday.

Elsewhere, a reservoir on the Oklahoma Line began falling after hitting a record of more than 27 feet (8 metres) above normal, and snakes were on the rise in Arkansas, where flooding has forced the evacuation of more than 300 homes and driven the reptiles from nesting areas.

Thirteen deaths have been blamed

on the weather in the past two weeks, one in Oklahoma and the rest in Texas.

North Texas has had 22.06 inches (56 cm) of rainfall in the first four months of 1990, the most since 1922. The result: the worst flooding since 1908.

In Texas, flood warnings for people and livestock were issued for Tuesday as the Trinity River engulfed homes, pastures and fields south of Dallas.

A lava flow from Kilauea volcano passed 20 feet (6 m) from the ocean while further up slope expanding molten rock claimed another home on the island of Hawaii, civil defence authorities said.

The home demolished at about 10 pm (4 am EDT) was northeast of the Kalapana congregational church, one of the two major structures left standing although encircled by the flow.

The dwelling was the 139th demolished since Kilauea began erupting in January 1983.

The church and the area's only store and drive-in restaurant, which functioned as an unofficial community centre in better days, remained standing despite active lava on their north and west sides.

Glowing lava carried miles beneath the surface from the vent on Kilauea's southeast slope pushed the leading flow forward down a beachfront highway.

Judge drops adultery charge

ASHLAND, Wisconsin, May 8, (AP): A woman charged under the state's seldom-enforced adultery law won't be prosecuted, according to an agreement between the defence and prosecution.

The agreement yesterday requires Donna E. Carroll, 28, to perform 40 hours of community service and attend two months of parental counselling sessions.

If she complies with the conditions the charge will be dismissed at the end of that period, under the agreement signed yesterday by acting Ashland county circuit court judge Thomas J. Gallagher.

District attorney Robert E. Eaton, who filed the charge against Carroll in July, did not return a call to his office yesterday. He has refused in recent weeks to discuss the case.

Carroll's lawyer, Jay S. Moynihan, said she entered into the agreement to avoid going through a trial. Carroll, a homemaker, has been free on bond and has moved to Janesville with her 7-year-old son. Their phone number is unlisted.

Carroll, who pleaded innocent to the adultery charge, had admitted during divorce hearing that she had an extramarital affair in 1989.

Her former husband, Robert, also admitted he had had an affair. But prosecutors did not press adultery charges against him, saying there was insufficient evidence to prove any violation occurred in Wisconsin.

A court-appointed guardian for the couple's son said last fall that Carroll wanted to disqualify his wife for custody, which she later won. Eaton has said the dispute played no part in his decision to charge Carroll with adultery.

The statute, which prosecutors said seldom has been enforced this century, prohibits a married person from having sexual intercourse with any person other than his or her spouse.

It carries a maximum penalty of two years in prison and \$10,000 in fines.

McMartin

Distraught juror interrupts retrial

LOS ANGELES, May 8, (AP): Opening statements in the second molestation trial of Ray Buckey began Monday but were interrupted when an alternate juror reported she was distraught over a weekend boat fire that imperiled her family.

The woman juror, who agreed to go forward with the trial of the McMartin pre-school case, began coughing violently moments after the prosecutor began his address to the jury and had to be led out of the courtroom.

Superior court judge Stanley Weisberg called a recess to give the juror time to compose herself and see if she would be able to proceed.

The woman told Weisberg before the session began that her entire family was aboard the boat.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

SAN FRANCISCO: At least 10 motorists were robbed over the weekend after a gang dumped oil on a San Francisco street, then accosted the occupants of cars that spun out of control, police said.

"With the oil on the streets, the tires can't get a grip, and the victims can't get away," a police lieutenant told the San Francisco examiner. "They're just helpless."

Police called the gang, which numbered five or more men armed with clubs, the Oil Can Bandits. (Reuters)

NEW YORK: Yoko Ono says her son, Sean, helped her pull through after the murder of her husband, John Lennon.

"Some days, I felt I wasn't worth it, but it was important that I stay around for Sean, or he would have lost two parents," Ono said in an interview in Sunday's Daily News Magazine.

Sean, now 14, was 5 when his former Beatle father was slain. He attends school in Switzerland and hopes for a music career.

Ono said she prefers he choose another path but will not stand in his way. (AP)

MILAN, Italy: American film actor Sylvester Stallone, star of the violent box-office hits Rambo and Rocky, wants to shake off his tough hero image and turn green.

"I want Rambo to disappear unless I'm allowed to turn him into the defender of the ecological battle to save the environment. My new Rambo will be closer to Greenpeace than to the CIA," he said at a show in Milan to be broadcast on Italian television on Tuesday. (Reuters)

TOKYO: Officials investigating mysterious tremors that have been shaking houses in part of a Japanese city have found the cause — not an earthquake but rock fans jumping up and down at a local nightclub.

The environment office in Kawasaki, south of Tokyo, on Tuesday ordered the Club Citta to thicken its floor with concrete. At the club, which has no seats, up to 1,100 fans have been jumping up and down in unison at night.

concerts. (Reuters)



Bob Hope show

Comedian Bob Hope poses with LaToya Jackson (left) and Miss Universe 1990, Mona Grudt of Norway, on Monday, at RAF Mildenhall, England, where they were filming part of a music and variety show. (Reuters wirephoto)

ATLANTA, Georgia: Thomas Catherall had to be on his best behavior as a judge in the US chiefs open, especially when he started chewing one amateur chef's lamb kebab.

"I could have eaten my shoe and it would have been more tasty," said Catherall, head chef at the Cherokee town and country club in Atlanta.

But overall, Catherall, one of 33 certified master chefs in the United States, gave the amateur chefs high grades for their culinary creations. (AP)

NEW YORK: Norman Vincent Peale wants to honour a few ordinary people who do good deeds with none of the glory.

The author-minister announced Sunday that a search is on throughout the United States for missing heroes to be lauded with

America's awards and \$1,000 each.

"We're looking for unsung heroes who personify American character and spirit, for ordinary folks who are extraordinary examples of such values as compassion, honesty, courage or even friendliness," he said. (AP)

TUPELO, Mississippi: Elvis. The man, the music, the curtain.

The elementary school that Elvis Presley attended is cashing in on its most famous pupil, selling scraps of a maroon velvet curtain that hung on the stage when Presley was a shy, barefoot boy singing at weekday devotionals.

The going price is \$5 for a five-inch (12.7-centimetre) square, and the Lawson School has already reaped \$3,000. The money has gone toward new playground equipment and a \$1,700 sound system for the

auditorium. (AP)

Principal Dale Dobbs said he is

amazed that Elvis fans are so eager to buy anything connected to him. (AP)

AUSTIN, Texas: Town Lake may get a new name, Lake Lady Bird, for the widow of former US President Lyndon B. Johnson.

"We want to put you on the map — forever," Austin Mayor Lee Cooke told Mrs Johnson at a dinner Friday to mark the 25th anniversary of Johnson's inauguration.

"Lady Bird Johnson has cultivated beauty, and she has shared it with us. This is our way of saying 'Thank you' for the many gifts of beauty, courage and care that she has so generously brought to our world," Cooke said.

The dinner was at the LBJ Library at the University of Texas. Cooke said a majority of the city council has agreed to the name change.

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MADE IN SONY WORLDWIDE EXCELLENCE

2 Colombians held in Florida

Plot to buy Stinger missiles

TAMPA, May 8. (AP): Two Colombians who claimed links to the Medellin drug cartel were in custody yesterday accused of trying to buy Stinger missiles to use against aircraft carrying Colombian government officials, the FBI said.

The men agreed to hand over \$1 million in cocaine profits as a down payment for 120 Stinger missiles and 50 automatic rifles, plus a plane to transport the weapons back to Colombia, FBI agent Charles A. Saleme testified.

The suspects, claiming to work for reputed cartel kingpin Pablo Escobar, said bribed officials would help them smuggle the weapons for attacks on the anti-drug Colombian government.

The suspects told undercover agents they would pay \$5 million — from the planned sale of 400 to 600 kilos of cocaine — for the plane and the weapons, and \$1 million to the people who would steal the weapons, Saleme told a federal magistrate.

FBI officials said a Stinger sells for about \$14,000 on the legitimate arms market. The 4-foot-long (1.2 metre), 35 pound (16 kilogram) shoulder-fired missile uses an infrared homing device to aim itself at the heat generated by an aircraft's engine.

Assassinate

Allen McCreight, FBI chief in Tampa, said investigators weren't aware of specific plans by drug traffickers to assassinate Colombian President Virgilio Barco Vargas, who has waged war on drug smugglers, or his cabinet.

Violence linked to Colombia's drug lords has claimed the lives of three presidential candidates in that country in the past year.

This case is the most recent of several reported attempts by drug traffickers to obtain Stingers, but federal officials say none of the earlier negotiations had gone as far as the plot involving the two men arrested Saturday.

A Miami task force on narcotics and terrorism seized a mini-arsenal of automatic weapons and ammunition from a Miami home where the two had stayed, the FBI said.

An undercover drug investigation in Polk County in west-central Florida eventually led to the federal "sting" in the weapons deal.

The traffickers were shown a Stinger brought in from Fort Stewart, Georgia, Polk Sheriff Lawrence Crow said, but no weapons exchanged hands.

Authorities on Saturday arrested Alfredo Antonio Ramos-Tinoco, 47, at a Tampa hotel bar, and Luis Fernando Arcila-Giraldo, 28, near Miami international airport.

Changed

Both were charged with conspiracy to receive stolen property and export arms illegally, as well as aiding and abetting the importation and possession with intent to distribute marijuana and cocaine.

Ramos-Tinoco was ordered held without bond yesterday by US Magistrate Thomas Wilson in Tampa. He was appointed a public defender after claiming he couldn't afford to pay an attorney.

Arcila-Giraldo, who also goes by the name of Luis Alfredo Hernandez-Zuluaga, was appointed a public defender during a brief appearance before US Magistrate Linnea Johnson in Miami yesterday. He was ordered held without bond.

An FBI affidavit said Ramos-Tinoco "described Luis as a close associate" of Colombian drug boss Pablo Escobar. It also said Ramos-Tinoco "stated that if this arms exchange deal went well, it would be arranged for the undercover organisation to handle future transportation of drugs into the United States on behalf of the Pablo Escobar group."

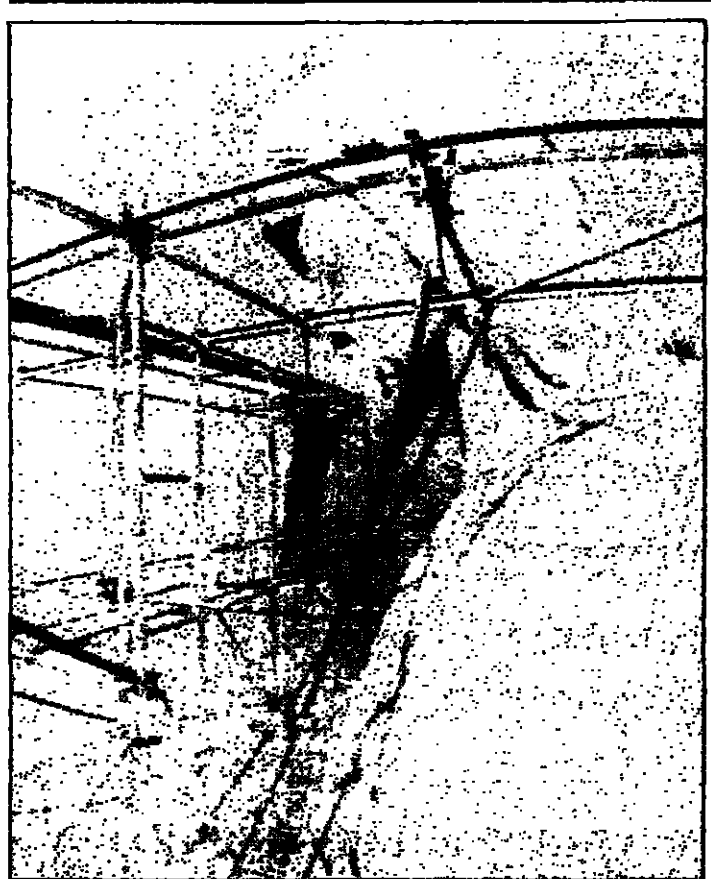
However, McCreight cautioned: "We have not established these negotiations were directed or controlled by Pablo Escobar."

Doctor, morgue attendants held

CARACAS, May 8. (AP): An ophthalmologist and 11 morgue attendants were arrested during the weekend, accused of stealing eyes for cornea transplants from bodies taken to the city morgue, police said yesterday.

Juan Gerardo Schultz, a 37-year-old physician, was arrested Saturday night, and technical judicial police (PTJ) are now questioning other medical staff from his eye clinic in Maracay, 62 miles (100 kilometres) west of Caracas, commissioner Alexis Bolivar said.

Also arrested were 11 morgue attendants, including one man who previously worked for the Eyc Bank, a non-profit organisation that helps cornea transplant patients.



A workman restores the 40-metre high Christ statue at the Corcovado Mountain near Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Monday. In February two private enterprises signed an agreement to spend \$2 million to restore the monument by its 59th anniversary in October. (Reuter wirephoto)

Convictions now doubtful

Slaying of Jesuits

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador, May 8. (AP): A weak prosecution case and missing evidence make convictions of nine military men unlikely in the November slayings of six Jesuit priests and two women, a court source said yesterday.

The Foreign Relations Committee of the US House of Representatives has approved a proposal cutting off military aid to El Salvador, now worth about \$85 million a year, if the Central American country fails to pursue actively its investigation of the deaths of the priests.

"If we work hard and there are no problems, I believe the trial can conclude at the end of this year," said the source at the 4th criminal court.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, added that the fact that four cadets who could testify in the case were sent out of the country adds to the difficulty in gaining a conviction.

Also, a logbook and a personal diary that could document Benavides' movements have been reported lost.

"All these problems raised obstacles to the court's effort to

find out if any other high-ranking military men are involved or are trying to cover up for the murders," the source said.

Col. Guillermo Benavides, commander of the military school at the time, three lieutenants and five soldiers are accused in the crime. Benavides also was in charge of the area where the killings took place.

El Salvador's Deputy Defence Minister Col. Juan Orlando Zepeda yesterday denied the military high command was involved in the Nov. 16 slaying of six Jesuit priests.

"I emphatically reject any connection of myself or the high command in this case," Zepeda told reporters, in an effort to refute implications of a recent "60 minutes" show broadcast on American CBS television, which Zepeda said unfairly implicated him in the murders.

Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani said today there were no obstacles to an official probe into the killings of six Jesuit priests last November, although evidence in the case has disappeared and key witnesses are currently unable to testify.

Farewell to arms

Contras begin turning in

MANAGUA, May 8. (Reuter): About 100 Contra rebels were due to hand over their weapons to United Nations soldiers in a Nicaraguan village today in a ceremony President Violeta Chamorro says will bring a farewell to arms after eight years of war.

"I believe that with the resistance's acceptance of this firm disarmament agreement we have entered an irreversible peace process," Chamorro said in a statement yesterday.

"This means a farewell to arms, the triumph of peace over violence."

The first group of rebels in Nicaragua were due to turn in their weapons in the village of El Almendro about 140 miles (230 km) southeast of Managua.

Chamorro's National Opposition Union alliance said yesterday it will submit 17 constitutional reforms to the new National Assembly, including limits on presidential powers.

Israel offers documents to prove arms not destined for Colombia

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 8. (AP): Israel presented documents today as proof that Israeli-made weapons which wound up in the hands of a Colombian drug boss were sent to Antigua at the request of officials from the Caribbean nation.

The file of 14 documents were handed over to a visiting Antiguan delegation and some were shown to foreign reporters by Israeli officials.

They included an end-user certificate signed by Antigua's top defence official, Vere Bird Jr., assuring Israel that the arms were for the exclusive use of the security forces in the Caribbean island nation.

In March 1989, Israel's Defence Ministry said 400 Galil assault rifles and 100 mini-Uzi sub-machine-guns were

shipped to Antigua and reached their destination.

The Haaretz newspaper said the value of the arms deal was about \$2.2 million.

Israeli officials said they didn't know how the weapons ended up on the ranch of Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, a drug lord who was killed in a shootout with Colombian police last December. About 200 of the Galil guns were confiscated.

The Antiguan delegation, headed by Patrick Lewis, and Antiguan diplomat at the United Nations, arrived last night to investigate the affair. He was accompanied by three US lawyers. They met today with Foreign Ministry officials, including the head of the Latin American desk.

"Israel asked the Antiguan delegation how and why a

MOSCOW, May 8. (UPI): Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, in a message to his Cuban counterpart today, signalled Moscow's dissatisfaction with the fellow communist nation's continued resistance to reform.

Shevardnadze and Cuban Foreign Minister Isidor Malmierca exchanged greetings on the 30th anniversary of the May 8, 1960, resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries. 16 months after Cuban President Fidel Castro seized power following a long guerrilla campaign.

"The Soviet Union values the steady bilateral political

dialogue enabling both countries to compare approaches, co-ordinate steps and map directions of joint activity with regard to the key issues of international politics," Shevardnadze said in his message.

"The Soviet side is fully determined to develop this dialogue and perfect our political co-operation," he told Malmierca.

Despite the message's friendly tone, its reference to the need to co-ordinate steps and perfect political co-operation were clear indications of the differences that have emerged between the two nations.

Castro has adamantly rejected Soviet President Mikhail Gorba-

chev's "perestroika" drive to renew communism, saying greater freedom of expression, movement toward a more market-oriented economy and other changes are not applicable in his Caribbean nation.

Malmierca in his message to Shevardnadze called the Soviet Union "the great country of Soviet state founder Vladimir Lenin" in an allusion to its orthodox communist roots.

Castro said in a speech last December that Cuba would defend socialism "to the last drop of blood," and he lectured Gorbachev on conventional communism during the Soviet

leader's visit to Havana earlier in the year.

Moscow has continued to give Cuba more than \$5 billion a year, half its aid total to all Third World countries, but trade between the two nations declined last year and the Kremlin wants the exchange to become more balanced with an increase of Cuban exports to the Soviet Union.

Cuba yesterday accused the US air force of practising a simulated air strike against the island during weekend US military manoeuvres in the Caribbean.

But a US official in Havana, without addressing the specific

accusation, repeated a US government statement that three American military exercises being held in the Atlantic and the Caribbean were routine, unrelated and not aimed at Cuba.

Cuba started 24-hour jamming in Havana of Radio Marti, the US Spanish-language station transmitting from Miami, and said it would extend the jamming to the whole island.

The move was a further strengthening by Cuba of its electronic defences against incoming US television and radio broadcasts. Havana says these broadcasts are aimed at overthrowing its communist government.

Original plan was to kidnap De Gaulle

MADRID, May 8. (AP): The man who nearly succeeded in assassinating French president Charles De Gaulle in 1962 says the original plan was by a group of disgruntled French army officers was to kidnap, try and then execute the general for allowing Algeria to become independent.

In an interview published in the Sunday section of the daily El Pais, Georges Henri Watin, better known as "The Jackal", said he only shot at — and barely missed — De Gaulle in his presidential vehicle in the French village of Petit Clamart when the plan went awry.

The incident was first dramatised in a novel by Frederick Forsythe called "The Day of the Jackal", which was later made into a film.

Watin, now a Paraguayan citizen who says he lives a hand-to-mouth existence, said the novelistic version of the Aug 22, 1962, plot bears no relation to what really happened.

"Reality is too dramatic. I know my own story, and one thing I have to make clear is that there was never a plan simply to kill the old man in Petit Clamart. The plan was to kidnap him, bring him to justice before a military court martial, and only then, execute him," Watin told Anton Fock, the author of the article.

He said the plan had been to kidnap De Gaulle at sunset, but that the officers who did all the figuring had used an almanac from the previous year and got the time wrong, and the presidential cortege arrived ahead of schedule.

"Suddenly I realised that the whole plan should be scrapped immediately," Watin said. "But by then it was too late."

Watin said he and the two other hired guns shot out the rear window and the two rear tires of De Gaulle's car.

"For a moment I looked directly at his (De Gaulle's) eyes. Our car was right alongside his, but he had calculated shooting at a car that was practically immobile," Watin said. "Later I learned I had missed him by just two centimetres."

In April 1961 four French generals based in Algiers and belonging to the Secret Army Organisation (OAS) staged an abortive coup attempt against De Gaulle's government.

Shortly after the Petit Clamart attack, De Gaulle, then 72, announced Algeria deserved to become independent, and negotiations were begun with the Algerian National Liberation Front (FLN).

On July 3, 1962, De Gaulle proclaimed Algeria independent.

Hair sample proves: regular drug user

Barry wasn't 'coerced' or 'induced'

WASHINGTON, May 8. (UPI): Tests on a hair sample taken from Mayor Marion Barry the night he was arrested on drug charges show that he was not enticed to smoke crack cocaine in a downtown hotel, a federal prosecutor said.

In documents filed yesterday in US district court, US attorney Jay Stephens said the forensic tests show Barry had used cocaine "repeatedly" in the six weeks before he was arrested Jan 18, and said at least a dozen witnesses will testify to that in the Mayor's drug possession and perjury trial next month.

The prosecutor said Rasheeda Moore, who acknowledged once having a "close, personal relationship" with the mayor, lured Barry to the Vista International Hotel, where they smoked crack.

Barry was then arrested by FBI agents in the hotel room.

The mayor's lawyer, R. Kenneth Mundy, has since argued that Barry was under the influence of alcohol when he agreed to take the drug, something he would not have done had he been in full control of his faculties.

Stephens said the tests performed on Barry's hair show he had not been "coerced" or "induced" by Moore to smoke crack in the hotel room, and that

an FBI surveillance tape of Barry and Moore that night show they "talked about their previous cocaine use."

In addition, the US attorney said, the government has at least a dozen witnesses who will testify at Barry's trial, scheduled to begin June 4, that they either used drugs with Barry, received drugs from him or provided drugs to him in the district of Columbia, the Virgin Islands and the Bahamas.

The witnesses also will testify that Barry was a regular cocaine user since 1984 and that he "frequently" smoked crack cocaine beginning in 1987, the prosecutor said.



Greetings from Pope

Pope John Paul II acknowledges hundreds of thousands of Mexican faithful shortly before celebrating mass in Chalco, near Mexico City on Monday. He is on the 2nd day of an 8-day visit to Mexico (Reuter wirephoto)

'Shun fundamentalist sects'

Pope John Paul preaches in Mexico

VERACRUZ, Mexico, May 8. (Reuter): Pope John Paul II yesterday urged Catholics not to be seduced by Protestant fundamentalist sects, who have been making significant inroads in Latin America in recent years.

Speaking in this port city on the Gulf of Mexico, the Pope said Latin American Catholics should beware the "proselytising activity of the sects" and see to it that "the ambiguity and confusion they sow is slowed down."

He said Catholics should do this by turning to the traditional tenets of their faith — popular devotions to patron saints, intensified religious education and greater participation in the sacraments.

It was the Pope's second reference yesterday to Protestant sects. Earlier he told residents of a slum outside Mexico City to beware of "false shepherds" and "sects and groups who seek to lure you from the true flock."

The Roman Catholic church in Latin

America has been increasingly worried by the significant advance of the fundamentalist Evangelical sects, which have been luring Catholics away in growing numbers.

At their general assembly last year, Mexican bishops expressed concern about the growing activity of some three hundred Evangelical church sects who operate in Latin America. Many of them are based in the United States.

Increased activity by Evangelicals in the past 20 years has speeded up the traditionally low rate of conversions of Catholics to Protestantism throughout Latin America, and especially in Central America and Mexico.

Evangelical groups, some of which use television to increase their membership and raise funds, have appealed to various classes of Latin American society.

Most have tried to convert the poor. But others have appealed to middle class Latin Americans who do not agree with the

Vatican's bans on artificial birth control and divorce or who want a more outwardly emotional religious experience.

A 1986 Vatican report on the problem said the sects appeared to offer simple answers to complicated questions, more human warmth and support in small groups and strong charismatic leadership.

In 1983 the Vatican sent out a questionnaire to Latin American bishops, seeking to find out which religious aspirations were unanswered by Catholicism and why some of the faithful were seeking the answers elsewhere.

Some Catholic bishops have suggested that the spread of Protestantism in Latin America is part of a larger political design by some sectors of US society to weaken the Roman Catholic church's influence in the continent.

Some Evangelical churches based in the southwestern United States broadcast Spanish-language religious television and radio programmes to Latin America.

Foreign officials arrive in San Jose

Calderon's inauguration

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica, May 8. (UPI): Foreign delegations arrived in Central America's only non-militarised country for the inauguration today of Rafael Angel Calderon and to congratulate outgoing President Oscar Arias.

Arias was to hand over power to Calderon in a four-hour ceremony at an outdoor sports stadium.

American First Lady Barbara Bush, all the Central American presidents and President Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela were among the foreign dignitaries who arrived yesterday.

Nicaraguan President Violeta

Chamorro's arrival today would mark her first trip out of her government in both bordering nations — Panama and Nicaragua — the transfer of power in Costa Rica comes amid peace and relative prosperity.

"The government of El Salvador would like the Costa Rican government to continue its role of promoting peace in the region," Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani said yesterday after arriving in San Jose.

Cristiani said forthcoming talks with leftist Salvadoran rebels have given him hopes of stability, and "we now can have a new hope for economic aspects in El Salvador."

"This is an age where all of Latin America is following the path toward democracy," he said. "Cuba is the exception."

Endara said Costa Rica is a model for all Central America. "We want to have the same experience. Democracy to us is of the greatest importance," Endara said.

Barbara arrived last night, heading the US delegation. She delivered a personal letter to Calderon from President George Bush and said she wanted to "join all Costa Ricans in celebrating these most precious democratic activities."



Costa Rican President Oscar Arias (right) directs Barbara Bush, wife of the US President, as she arrives in San Jose on Monday. The first lady represented the US as Arias handed over the presidency to Rafael Calderon (Reuter wirephoto)

Save the Amazon

LIMA, May 8. (Reuter): Amazon Indians from five countries will meet ecologists this week to try to persuade them that the native people are as much a part of the jungle as its trees and animals.

"The Indians are respectful, they ecologists around the world, despite good intentions, have ignored them in campaigns to save the Amazon from disappearing at the hands of ranchers and developers."

"We are part of nature, but the ecologists have always shunned us. Until now, they have never let us become politically involved in the effort to save the Amazon," said Evaristo Nugkwa, a member of Peru's Aguaruna tribe.

Nugkwa and 30 other Indian leaders from Peru, Colombia, Brazil, Bolivia and Ecuador will meet environmental leaders from around the world from Wednesday to inaugurate an agreement which the Indians hope will take their interests into account.

"The time is ripe for an accord on the basis of the principle that the Amazon is our home," said Nugkwa, president of a regional coalition known as the Co-ordinating Body for the Indigenous People's Organizations of the Amazon Basin (Cobip).

Barbara wanted to be a nurse

WASHINGTON, May 8. (UPI): First lady Barbara Bush revealed yesterday she may have gone into nursing had she not married George Bush and raised a family.

Mrs Bush made the remarks at a luncheon she gave to celebrate National Nursing Day before departing for Costa Rica as head of the US delegation attending the inauguration of president-elect Rafael Calderon.

INTERNATIONAL

Cyclone moves toward India

HYDERABAD, May 8. (UPI): Relief workers today evacuated more than 100,000 people from the projected path of a hurricane that was gaining power as it swept across the Bay of Bengal toward low-lying coastal areas of southern Andhra Pradesh state, officials said.

Heavy rains and winds moving ahead of the hurricane pounded coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh and the neighbouring state of Tamil Nadu for a second straight day, inundating vast swaths of land and disrupting normal life, officials said.

Army and naval personnel were placed on alert in both states, even though the threat appeared to have receded in Tamil Nadu, they said.

They said relief workers moved to limit casualties, evacuating more than 100,000 people from low-lying coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh that were expected to bear the brunt of the storm.

The evacuees were settled in more than 350 relief camps pitched on high ground.

Officials said that three people were electrocuted late yesterday in the Tamil Nadu state capital of Madras, where several business districts were submerged in waist-deep water.

The hurricane spawned by a low pressure area over the Bay of Bengal had originally appeared headed toward Madras, but veered in a northwestern direction and lay centred about 110 miles (180 km) east of the Andhra Pradesh rice-growing centre of Nellore.

Weather officials said that an analysis of data indicated the hurricane, packing winds of about 125 miles (200 kmph), was expected to make landfall late today between Nellore and Machilipatnam, about 200 miles (320 km) southeast of the state capital of Hyderabad.

The officials said the hurricane was gaining in strength and developing dangerously, posing the most serious natural threat to coastal areas since a 1977 storm that left thousands dead.

The Andhra Pradesh government ordered the hoisting of the maximum danger signal for marine craft at the port towns of Kakinda, Machilipatnam, Nizampatnam and Krishnapatnam, the Press Trust of India said.

Colombo steps up security for MPS

COLOMBO, May 8. (UPI): The Sri Lankan government today decided to increase the security given to Tamil members of parliament (MPs) resident in Colombo and tighten security for them, according to a high-ranking security official.

The decision came following the killing yesterday of a Tamil Member of Parliament, Sam Tambimuttu, from the eastern province by unknown gunmen.

Meanwhile, a crack team of detectives from the Criminal Investigation Department and the army intelligence was put on the trail of the killers of Tambimuttu, the official said.

The team this morning visited the scene of the crime and questioned several persons who had witnessed the killing which took place in broad daylight.

Yousangari, Member of Parliament representing the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front said today the government should take responsibility for the killing of Tambimuttu.

'Taipei a city of lust'

TAIPEI, May 8. (AP): A visitor to Taipei could be excused for thinking its men are the best groomed in the world — hundreds upon hundreds of gaudy, neon-lit barber shops line the city's streets.

But customers who slip through the front doors are not looking for a trim and a shave. The barber shops offer sex, and are just one part of a prostitution industry that is flourishing along with the rest of Taiwan's economy.

"Taipei is a city of lust," says city councillor Yen Chin-Fu. "Girlie restaurants and bars are everywhere, even in residential and school areas. Some are next to police stations."

Several feminist groups are trying to fight back, but so far have had little success.

"As our society gets richer, it is also getting more corrupt," said Chen Yi-Chen of the women's rescue foundation.

A decade ago, prostitution in Taipei was largely centred in the suburb of Beitou, known for its hot springs and hostesses who sing melancholy folk songs at hotels and restaurants.

But as the economy grew dramatically in the 1980s, so did the sex industry. Yen estimates Taipei has more than 5,000 restaurants, bars and other establishments selling sex.

Procuring women for clients has become part of the local business culture and helps account for the success of such restaurants as "Flower of Flowers," a vast expanse of 100 intimate dining rooms serviced by 250 hostesses who sing and flirt with customers and often accompany them off premises.

The barber shops, with fancy exteriors that can resemble a Chinese palace, an Egyptian pyramid or a coconut-lined beach in Hawaii, feature masseuses wearing the traditional Chinese qipao, a dress known for its tight fit and high slits. Their many skills do not include the handling of



Raided and bombed

More than 20 students from Seoul universities raided the Seoul headquarters of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) on Monday, copying the building for about 10 minutes. The students threw petrol bombs from inside the building, smashed windows with sticks and shouted "Down with the DLP" and "Overthrow Roh Tae-woo," before they were overpowered by South Korean riot police. (Reuters wirephoto)

Help to prevent chaos

Roh calls on Koreans

SEOUL, May 8. (AP): President Roh Tae-woo asked South Koreans yesterday to help prevent the nation from slipping into "chaos," but dissidents and radical students stepped up anti-government protests.

Radical students armed with firebombs, steel pipes and rocks battled riot police or attacked ruling party offices in Seoul and several other cities. Dissidents vowed to hold anti-Roh rallies this week across the nation.

Even as Roh spoke in a nationally televised address, 21 students armed with firebombs and iron pipes charged into the Seoul headquarters of Roh's Liberal Democratic Party and seized a third-floor office.

Riot police overpowered the protesters with clubs and tear gas about 10 minutes later. Witnesses said five protesters and policemen were injured. Office windows, furniture and the windshields of three cars were smashed and a guard post was partly burned.

Radical students long have demanded that Roh resign, contending his government is a puppet of the US government.

The protesters also scattered leaflets demanding the ouster of US Ambassador Donald Gregg. The leaflets accused Gregg of devising this year's merger of South Korea's governing party with two conservative opposition groups to serve US interests.

About 2,500 students fought police with firebombs and rocks outside campuses in four provincial cities and two small towns outside Seoul, said Yonhap, the South Korean news agency.

Yonhap said radical students firebombed ruling party offices in two other cities — Taegon and Wonju. There was minor damage but no injuries or arrests were reported, it said.

But dissident groups called for protests tomorrow in 17 cities aimed at forcing the governing party to disband.

Khmer Rouge gather support

Despite killings record

SREYE LA OH, Cambodia, May 8. (AP): Convoys of Khmer Rouge trucks filled with the recent rice harvest move freely through this rural village in northwest Cambodia, and young guerrilla fighters flirt with relaxed villagers.

"We are very happy to be back in our country," said Khmer Rouge division commander Mit Soc over coconut juice as Cambodian government artillery rumbled in the distance.

In a scene played out in scores of villages in rural Cambodia in recent months, Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge have returned to areas they were driven out of when Vietnamese forces invaded Cambodia in late 1978 and installed a pro-Hanoi government.

To much of the world, the Khmer Rouge are fanatics who killed hundreds of thousands of their countrymen during the 1970s in a savage bid to create a communist agrarian society.

But despite the widely held perception that they continue to be universally despised, the Khmer Rouge maintain increasing support in the long-neglected, poor villages of this ravaged country.

Since the announced pullout of Vietnamese troops in September, the Khmer Rouge have seized hundreds of villages in the north, west and southwest, close to the Cambodian border.

Khmer Rouge officials in Cambodia and Western intelligence sources in Bangkok, Thailand, say the group is attracting followers by tapping the deep suspicion most Cambodians harbour for their historical enemy, Vietnam.

The Khmer Rouge contend that Vietnam intends to "swallow" Cambodia. They allege that despite the pledged Vietnamese withdrawal, Vietnamese troops secretly remain in Cambodia disguised as Cambodian soldiers.

Although human rights groups have described strict regimentation and brutality in Khmer Rouge-controlled areas over the past decade, the guerrillas seem to have abandoned their harshest practices — at least temporarily.

Analysts are quick to point out that most Cambodians still loathe the Khmer Rouge and note that Pol Pot, Khieu Samphan and other leaders who presided over the 1975-78 reign of terror are still in charge. There is fear that if the Khmer Rouge were to return to power, their murderous ways would simply resurface.

But the analysts say the Khmer Rouge have managed to maintain a support network throughout rural Cambodia and have been able to recruit fighters since being driven to sanctuaries along the Thai-Cambodian border after the Vietnamese invasion.

"If they were that evil, they wouldn't have survived the last 11 years. There must be something they are fighting for that makes them people join them," Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew told the British newspaper the Independent in a recent interview.

China rebels still at large

BEIJING, May 8. (AP): Some Muslims in far western China who waged a brief "holy war" against Chinese rule in which 22 people died last month are still at large, a local newspaper has reported.

"Those criminals who assume they have been lucky and attempt to get by without being detected better understand that only by confessing will they receive... lenient disposal," said Amudun Niyaz, deputy secretary of the Communist Party committee in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region.

The official Xinjiang daily newspaper's May 2 edition, seen in Beijing today, said he warned those who "choose to resist to the very end" that "what awaits them can only be their own destruction."

Amudun was speaking at a mass meeting in Baren township, Akto county, in western Xinjiang, where Muslims clashed with Chinese security forces on April 5-6. Fifteen protesters, an Uygur official and six policemen were killed and 19 police officers wounded, official reports said.

Local television reports said "reactionary elements" in Baren had formed the Islamic Party of East Turkistan and proclaimed the holy war to establish an independent republic.

Tensions between the majority Han Chinese and Muslim ethnic minorities, especially the Uygurs, always have been high and have boiled into violence in the past.

The Xinjiang daily reported earlier this year on unspecified "hot pots" and quelled regional officials as calling for better police riot training and intelligence work.

Unofficial religious schools in Xinjiang have been shut down recently and Muslim imams who violated laws against proselytizing were stripped of their religious titles.

Although unofficial reports reached Beijing within days of the April clashes, the official media ignored them for weeks and officials refused to comment.

Foreign journalists repeatedly have been denied permission to visit Xinjiang.

The handful of official reports that finally emerged never said whether any arrests were made or how many people were involved in the unrest.

At the time, foreign tourists in Xinjiang said clashes also occurred in the ancient bazaar city of Kashgar, Hotan and Kuqa, but officials reports did not mention unrest anywhere but Baren.

Nepal abolishes — key to monarchy rule — post of zonal commissioner

KATMANDU, May 8. (AP): Nepal yesterday abolished the post of zonal commissioner, doing away with a key element in the monarchy's monopoly on power, state-run radio said.

Meanwhile, a leading member of the opposition party said King Birendra has assured leaders of the opposition-led government that he will co-operate with their decisions and not get in the way of Nepal's march to democracy.

In an evening radio broadcast, Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai announced that the post of zonal commissioner had been abolished.

Bhattarai, a longtime opposition leader, was appointed head of an interim government last month after a two-month long movement for democracy forced King Birendra to surrender his stranglehold on political power.

A coalition of opposition parties, including Nepal Congress and leftist parties, pressed the king to agree to a multi-party system and abolish a 29-year-old ban on political parties. The king appointed a government, led by Bhattarai, to govern Nepal before multi-party elections, expected within a year.

One of Nepal Congress' main demands was that the king do away with the zonal commissioner post.

2 found dead in Kashmir

Police officer killed in Punjab

SRINAGAR, May 8. (AP): A 16-year-old girl was killed yesterday in crossfire between Muslim separatists and security forces, and two kidnapping victims were found dead by a river, officials and news reports said.

An anti-Indian strike, meanwhile, shut down this troubled city.

Muslim militants hurled a grenade at infantry soldiers in the city's center, injuring three troops. Soldiers returned fire and wounded five militants, security officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The deaths brought to at least 352 the number of people killed since Jan 20 when India launched a crackdown in Jammu-Kashmir State on a movement for an independent Muslim nation.

Police said the girl, identified only as Dolly, died instantly during the shootout last morning.

United News of India reported the bodies of Prof. Kundanlal Ganjoo and his wife were found on the banks of the Jelum river, just north of Srinagar. The couple were kidnapped on Saturday by suspected militants.

Security forces closed off the area and were conducting house-to-house searches for their slayers, the news report said. Ganjoo was a professor in the college of agriculture in Sopore, north of Srinagar.

In Srinagar, troops flooded the city yesterday as government workers opened offices for the summer. Every year, offices of the capital are moved from Jammu in the south to Srinagar.

Commandos lined the streets to the government secretariat and placed barricades outside government buildings. Government workers were moved to work in police vehicles, accompanied by troops in jeeps and troop trucks.

Bands of Muslim youths stoned some of the vehicles carrying government workers. Some youths snatched the identity cards of government workers.

A city-wide strike, called by Muslim separatist groups, brought the city to a standstill. Shops and businesses remained closed throughout the day.

Posters on the walls of Srinagar had called the strike to protest the annual movement of the capital and warned of reprisals if their orders were not obeyed. Most Muslim government workers also stayed away from their jobs, official sources said.

Sikh extremists in Punjab state today killed at least 11 people, including a senior police commander who died when militants in a speeding truck rammed his car, police and news reports said.

Extremists also robbed 450,000 rupees from a Punjab National Bank vehicle, injuring two security guards in the process, the Press Trust of India reported.

Authorities said Sikh militants driving a truck smashed into a car carrying H. B. Chand, 39, the superintendent of police operations for the police district centred on the holy city of Amritsar.

Chand died from his injuries while enroute to a hospital following the 2:30 pm incident, said P. Ramakrishnan, deputy inspector-general for the Central Reserve Police Force.

Three other passengers in the car — including a person identified only as Dr Sidhrath, the brother-in-law of Amritsar police chief Sanjeev Gupta — suffered injuries and were taken to a hospital.

Ramakrishnan said Chand was on his way from the Punjab state capital of Chandigarh to Amritsar when the incident occurred on the Grand Truck Road, about 20 miles (35 km) south of Amritsar. Chand's car overturned after it was rammed off the highway, he said.

Temple construction matters not BNP will support V. P. Singh

NEW DELHI, May 8. (Agencies): Right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party General Secretary Jagdish Mathur today said that his party would continue to support the V. P. Singh government even if it did not allow the construction of a local temple at Ayodhya.

He said his party would withdraw support to the National Front government only if the communists joined the ministry.

Asked to comment on the arrest of Hindu leader Shankaracharya Swaroopanand Saraswati, he said the Dravida Sear's arrest should have been avoided. He urged the Shankaracharya not to raise any controversy over the foundation of the Ram Mandir.

He said in case, the government does not allow to construct the temple at Ayodhya, BJP workers will be free to join the agitation in their individual capacity.

Mathur was speaking at Hindu holy city of Mathura, where communal clashes occurred recently.

Mathur said if the present Uttar Pradesh government stopped its policy of "appeasing" Muslims and allowed the Vishva Hindu Parishad to construct temple at Ayodhya, there would be no bloodshed.

If the government refused to hand over the Ram Temple construction site to Hindus, it will be taken by Hindus through sangharsh, he said.

About Kashmir he said "if there is any dialogue with Pakistan on Kashmir it should be on our terms."

"If Pakistan did not agree to close down terrorists training camps, India should attack Pakistan," Mathur said.

Woerner rules out N-free Germany

WASHINGTON, May 8. (UPI):

Nato Secretary-General Manfred Woerner ruled out the idea of making Germany nuclear-free as a way to obtain an agreement from the Soviet Union to allow a unified Germany nation to be a member of Nato.

"I think it's unanimously accepted by all member nations of this alliance that there should be no denuclearisation, neither of Europe nor of Germany... It would not be acceptable to our alliance," he said.

Woerner and Defence Secretary Dick Cheney were to travel together today to Alberta, Canada, to Wednesday's opening of the two-day, semi-annual meeting of Nato's nuclear planning group of defence ministers.

It will be the first Nato ministerial meeting since President Bush announced last week that the United States will not replace Lance short-range nuclear missiles and nuclear artillery in Europe with new, more powerful versions.

Bush also called for a Nato summit of heads of state, tentatively set for early July, to review the political and military strategy of the alliance in the wake of major democratic reforms in Eastern Europe.

"What I want to achieve during the NPG meeting, first, is to confirm the adjustments in the posture announced by President Bush regarding the Lance follow-on regarding nuclear artillery," Woerner told reporters yesterday.

"Then I think we will reaffirm the willingness to move to minimum (nuclear) deterrence," he said.

"I think we will ask the Saccor (Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Gen. John Galvin) to look into our stockpile for the future posture of nuclear weapons."

"Then I think we have to reaffirm certain essential principles... We cannot and will not renounce nuclear weapons as such. We want to have a minimum level, if possible agreed with the Soviets. But we cannot renounce."

Cheney plans to "explain elements" of Bush's speech to the Nato members and "to try and enlist their support," a senior US defence official said.

The members will also try to set guidelines for the Nato study on the future numbers and types of nuclear weapons needed in Europe, said the US official, who spoke on the condition he not be identified.

Neither Woerner nor US officials would estimate when such a study might be completed.

The US official said Nato members will not be asked to agree to future deployment of an air-launched nuclear missile to replace the aging short-range nuclear missiles in Europe.

"It's not a question at this point," the official said, disclosing that the alliance at an NPG meeting in April 1988 committed itself to air modernisation, which included the tactical air-to-surface missile (Tasm) under development in the United States.

"The focus (of the NPG meeting) is to answer the mail on the president's initiative and to figure out how to do the study," he said. "There is no issue pending on Tasm."

US to destroy smallpox virus

GENEVA, May 8. (Reuters): The United States said today it would destroy its remaining stocks of live smallpox virus and urged the Soviet Union to do the same.

US Health Secretary Louis Sullivan told an annual meeting of the World Health Organisation (WHO) there was no reason to keep stocks of the virus — retained so far for scientific reasons — now the disease had been eradicated.

Sullivan said eradication of smallpox, an ancient scourge that has killed and scarred millions through the centuries, had been a major triumph for international medical co-operation.

The WHO launched a major campaign against smallpox in 1959. It ended in 1980 when the UN agency officially declared it dead.

The last known case occurred in Britain in 1978 when a woman died after contracting it in a laboratory accident.

Koirala met King Birendra on Sunday at the royal palace. He said the king assured him that a commission for drafting a new constitution would be constituted soon.

Nepalese Christians yesterday demanded an end to a 32-year-old law banning religious conversion and called for the establishment of a secular state in this Hindu kingdom.

The call came as 1,500 Protestants kicked off a five-day religious convention organised by the Kathmandu-based Nepal Christian Fellowship.

There are 14 zones in the country headed by commissioners directly appointed by the king. Nepal Congress alleges that these zonal commissioners were responsible for suppressing democracy activists during the movement.

Hundreds of people were arrested and the opposition claims hundreds were also killed during the campaign for multi-party democracy.

Yesterday, Nepali Congress Party Secretary-General, Girija Prasad Koirala urged that legal action be taken against at least seven zonal commissioners who he said were responsible for

Estonia drops 'Soviet Socialist'

Baltic republic takes another measured step toward independence

TALLINN, USSR, May 8, (AP): Estonia dropped the words "Soviet Socialist" from its name today and adopted its old tricolor national flag in place of the red banner of socialism as the tiny Baltic republic took another measured step toward independence.

The Estonian parliament, without formally declaring independence, reconstituted several paragraphs from its 1938 constitution, including an opening proclamation that Estonia is "an independent republic, with the supreme state power vested in the people."

Nationalist parliamentarians regard the move as another step in a phased march toward independence and not in itself a formal break with Moscow.

A small crowd gathered in the Cobblestone Square to see what would follow. But there was no immediate attempt to cover the giant hammer and sickle crest that has adorned the front of the building since Estonia was forcibly incorporated into the Soviet Union a half century ago.

Estonia, which in November 1988 became the first of the 15 Soviet republics to proclaim its sovereignty from Moscow, has taken repeated steps in recent months to establish a separate identity without provoking a confrontation with President Mikhail Gorbachev over the issue of independence.

Lithuania, which declared independence on March 11, is now the target of an economic blockade in which the Kremlin has cut the flow of oil, natural gas and other critical supplies.

The third Baltic republic, Latvia, declared independence on May 4, and is now waiting to hear whether Gorbachev will impose sanctions similar to those he slapped on Lithuania.

President Gorbachev accused nationalists in the Soviet Union of using "the atmosphere of democracy, glasnost and freedom" to pursue "their futile, ambitious plans" for independence from Moscow.

Gorbachev, speaking Monday to a gathering of veterans in the Kremlin during celebrations marking the end of World War II, said those intent of seceding from the Soviet Union are pushing an "irresponsible policy leading to a deadlock."

The account of Gorbachev's speech reported by the official Tass news agency failed to mention any particular separatist group.

An appeal printed on the front page of the republic's Communist Party newspaper said pro-independence leaders "did not consider it necessary to ask the people: Do they want a return to unemployment, lawlessness and oppression; Do they want hunger, cold and bankruptcy as in neighbouring Lithuania?"

Meanwhile, Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimieras Pranaskevicius arrived in Britain today to ask for help from her counterpart, Margaret Thatcher, in gaining independence from Moscow for her homeland.

Non-Latvians make up 46 percent of the population and most of the urban working class in the republic, whose leaders declared independence on May 4 but have not asked for an immediate break with Moscow.

Latvia's newly-elected prime minister said the sister Baltic republics of Lithuania and Estonia must close ranks with it in their struggle for independence from Moscow.

The premier, economist Ivars Godmanis, was clearly referring to the possibility that the Kremlin would order economic blockades similar to the one imposed on Lithuania, which declared independence on March 11.

Godmanis was pictured during a parliamentary session in Riga May 7. (Reuters wirephoto)

Godmanis was pictured during a parliamentary session in Riga May 7. (Reuters wirephoto)

Godmanis was pictured during a parliamentary session in Riga May 7. (Reuters wirephoto)

The parliament also declared that the step, in large part symbolic, was intended as a show of solidarity with the sister Baltic republics of Lithuania and Latvia, which have declared full independence.

The vote today was 73 in favour, 14 against and two abstentions. Eight other members present didn't vote, and eight others were absent. The measure passed with three votes more than the required two-thirds majority of the legislature's total membership.

Minutes after the vote was taken in the Estonian Supreme Soviet, or parliament, the red flag with its hammer and sickle was lowered from the roof of the ancient parliament building. The flag used by Estonia when it was independent — with cornflower blue, black and white stripes — went up in its place.

Kohl rejects Soviet plan

BONN, May 8, (Reuters): West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl today rejected a Soviet suggestion that Bonn could rapidly unite with East Germany then sort out the tricky problem of military allegiance later.

Kohl said the idea that solutions to the external problems of unity — such as a united Germany's membership of Nato — could be put on ice did not correspond at all to his views.

"It would be fatal," he told reporters. Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said on Saturday a solution to the controversial issue of whether a united Germany could belong to Nato could be put off for a few years, allowing the two states to merge beforehand.

Kohl said his government wanted to stick to its timetable, which meant the external aspects of unification, such as membership of the Western alliance Nato, should be sorted out by the autumn.

East and West Germany, along with the three Western wartime allies — the United States, France and Britain — support full Nato membership but with the concession to Moscow that no Nato troops would enter former East German territory.

The Soviet Union, the fourth of the World War Two victors taking part in talks with East and West Germany on security aspects of unification, rejects this and has suggested neutrality, non-alignment or dual membership of Nato and the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact as alternatives.

Hans-Jochen Vogel, head of the opposition Social Democrats, said the Soviet idea "still requires detailed explanation, in view of its importance and consequences."

According to translations of Shevardnadze's speech that have appeared in the German press, he envisions the four World War II victors keeping troops on German soil "for a few years" after unification until the dispute is settled.

Officials in East and West Berlin said yesterday they have set a target date of July 2 to drop all border controls and provide full, unhindered access between the two sides of the city.

The comments came after East Germany's first free local elections, in which the Social Democrats emerged as the strongest party in East Berlin.

The Social Democrats, who won 34.3 per cent of the vote in Sunday's local elections in East Berlin, also offered coalition talks to other major groups in a move designed to keep the communists out of the local government.



French President Francois Mitterrand (centre) lays a wreath of flowers on the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, during a ceremony to commemorate armistice day at the Arc de Triomphe yesterday (Reuters wirephoto)

27m Soviets died in World War Two: Warsaw Pact

MOSCOW, May 8, (Reuters): The commander-in-chief of the Warsaw Pact said yesterday that the Soviet Union lost at least 27 million people in World War Two, seven million more than what for years was the official death toll.

General Pyotr Lushev, who is also a first deputy defence minister, said in an interview with the official Tass news agency: "In 1946, Stalin said seven million Soviet citizens died ... Khrushchev made public data listing losses at 20 million."

He added: "Today, after serious analysis, we know that the Soviet Union lost 27-28 million people during the war."

These included more than eight million who had been killed in combat or did not return from captivity, Lushev said.

He said former Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev's estimate of 20 million dead was based on "questionable estimates."

"For years, the true scope of the Soviet Union's losses was concealed or distorted," Lushev said in comments apparently timed to coincide with celebrations marking tomorrow's 45th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany.

Romania probes arms sales

BUCHAREST, May 8, (UPI): Romania's chief prosecutor said yesterday investigators have uncovered evidence substantiating reports that the former communist regime sold advanced Soviet military technology to the United States.

General prosecutor George Robu refused to elaborate on the evidence or how it came to light, but said his office was "well aware" of the plot.

"We are at the very beginning of the investigation," Robu told United Press International. "We are under no illusions. We have lots of problems gathering the evidence. But we'll leave no stone unturned."

A report published Sunday in the Washington Post said the US government paid communist officials \$40 million over ten years for advanced Soviet military technology, including radar systems that aided US development of the Stealth Bomber.

The Post, quoting intelligence sources in Washington and abroad, said US officials worked directly with two brothers of Ceausescu.

Norway opens environment conference: Norway's former prime minister Gro Harlem Brundtland opened an international conference on Tuesday by urging governments to act firmly to protect the environment.

"The pace of deforestation, soil erosion and loss of species is accelerating. We already know enough to start to act and act more forcefully," said Brundtland, who chaired the UN World Commission on Environment and Development which produced the 1987 Brundtland report.

Environmentalists expressed disappointment with a draft ministerial declaration, which stops short of any legally binding commitments (Reuters)

Bass family donates \$20 million: The Bass family of Fort Worth, Texas, has donated \$20 million to Yale University to study the environment and says its largesse won't end there.

The gift will establish the Yale Institute of Biospheric Studies, which will take an interdisciplinary approach to studying the biosphere. That is the zone of the Earth, from crust to atmosphere, that contains living organisms.

The donation is the biggest Yale has received since Paul Mellon, a 1929 graduate, contributed more than \$12 million in 1966-67 to construct the Yale Centre for British Art and an art collection worth an estimated \$5 million. (AP)

Wayne kin's attacker convicted: Jurors have convicted a man of eight felonies counts, including assault with a deadly weapon, in an attack on the daughter of the late John Wayne and her boyfriend.

Jerrill Hintergardt, 38, who made a surprise confession in court last week, faces sentencing June 8. He was convicted Monday in Santa Ana, California.

The prosecution alleged that Hintergardt and private investigator Oded Daniel Gal were hired by Aissa Wayne's former husband, Dr Thomas Glonis, to attack her and boyfriend Roger Luby in October 1988.

Glonis allegedly arranged the beatings at Luby's Newport beach home because of a custody dispute with Ms Wayne over their daughter, Anastasia, then 2 years old. (AP)

'Brief case' turns bomb squad red: Members of the city's bomb squad were somewhat red-faced when they sent a robot to check out the contents of a suspicious-looking suitcase in the heart of Montreal's red-light district.

The whole operation was carried out at mid-morning Monday before hundreds of amused onlookers near the corner of Rue St Laurent and St Catherine's street. (AP)

Suspected Mafia boss shot dead: Gunmen shot dead a 67-year-old suspected Mafia boss and drug trafficker on Tuesday in a fruit and vegetable store in western Sicily.

Police said Natale L'ala who lost his left eye in an attempt on his life in December, was shot repeatedly by at least two men in the town of Campobello. (Reuters)

Looks like Nazi camp victim: The father of a 20-year-old Italian held by kidnapers for 27 months said his son looked like a Nazi labour camp victim after his release.

Carlo Celadon enjoyed his first day at home with his family on Monday after spending much of his captivity in a damp hole infested by rats and snakes in the bleak Aspromonte mountains of southern Calabria.

Candido Celadon said his first sight of his son reminded him of an uncle who appeared on his doorstep starved at the end of World War Two after several years in a German labour camp. (Reuters)

US concedes health problems: US Secretary of Health Louis W. Sullivan, in a frank statement to the World Health Organisation (WHO) annual assembly Tuesday, said poor and minority Americans have serious health problems.

Sullivan said that health continues to improve for the US population as a whole with longevity increasing and infant mortality declining. "However, we realise that our efforts are far from complete," he said.

"We are working to reduce the high cost of health care and to provide affordable access to care for all of our citizens."

Currently, in the United States, health care costs our citizens well over \$600 billion a year. But 31 million Americans do not have proper health care coverage. (UPI)

Smoke alarms mandatory: The mandatory use of smoke alarms could save hundreds of lives in the UK and prevent thousands of injuries caused by fires in the home, a new report claims Tuesday.

The report, by the UK's National Housing and Town Planning Council urged the government to follow the example of the United States, where legislation during the 1980s led to the widespread installation of smoke alarms.

As a result, the number of deaths from house fires in America was almost halved, making smoke alarms "the fire safety success story of the decade," the council said. (Kuma)

WHO chief warns

10 m carry Aids

GENEVA, May 8, (Reuters): The head of the World Health Organisation said today five to 10 million people were infected with the Aids virus, but many more would die from preventable diseases such as malaria.

WHO Director-General Hiroshi Nakajima, a 61-year-old Japanese who has headed the world body for the past two years, painted a gloomy picture of what was in store for the world on virtually all health fronts.

"Unless current trends are arrested, some 200 million people may die prematurely in the 1990s from preventable causes alone," he told delegates from 167 nations attending an annual meeting of the UN agency.

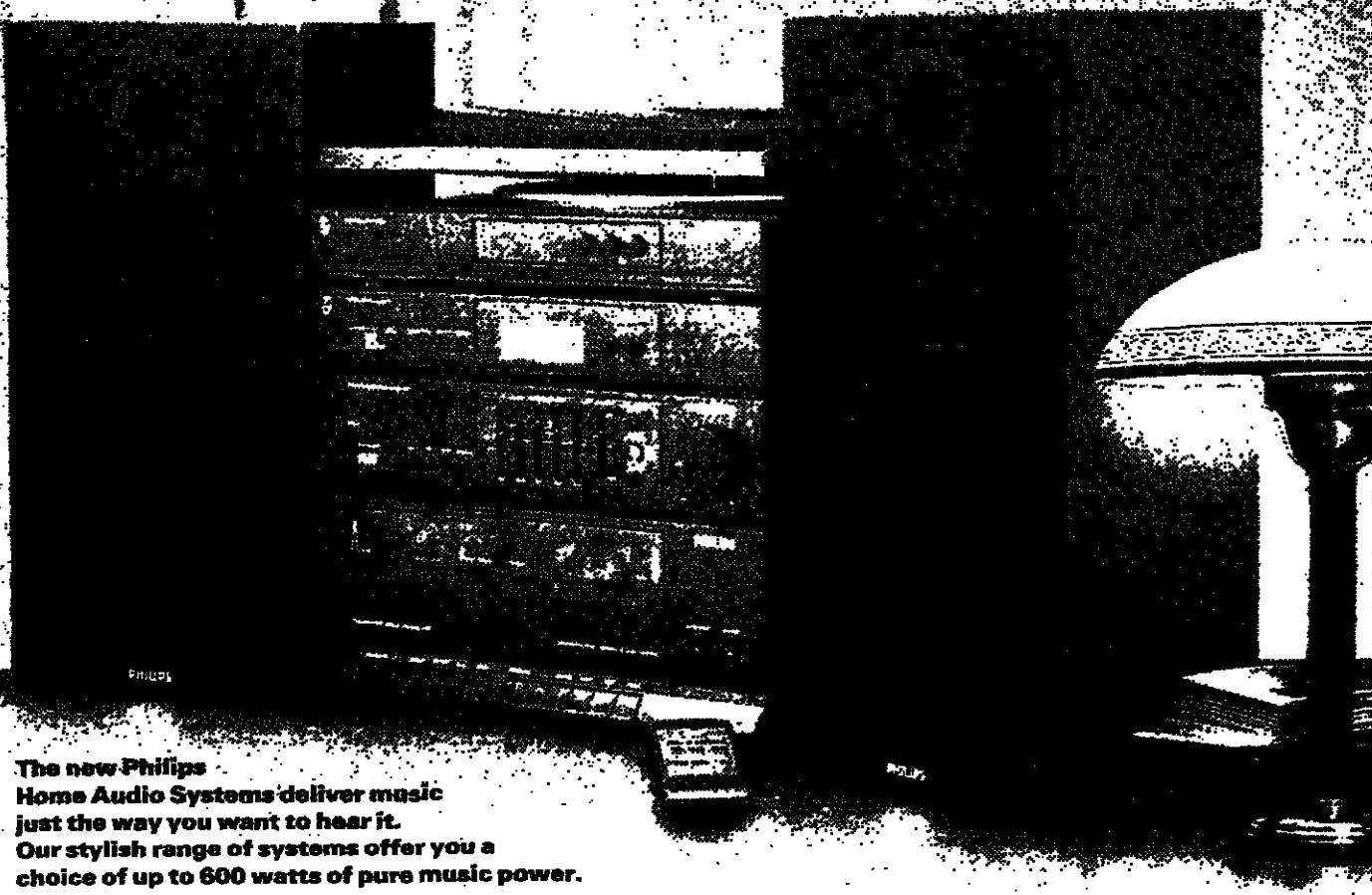
Nakajima said that unless there was a marked change in smoking patterns 500 million people living today would die this decade of diseases related to smoking. Diarrhoeal diseases could take the lives of 40 million children in the next decade while acute respiratory ailments would account for a similar number of child deaths.

Some 30 million people, mostly in developing countries, would die of tuberculosis in the next decade. Malaria, which was creeping back into areas where it had been eliminated, would kill between 10 and 20 million people.

World-wide, the biggest killer was cardiovascular disease with 12 million deaths annually. Cancer caused 4.8 million deaths.

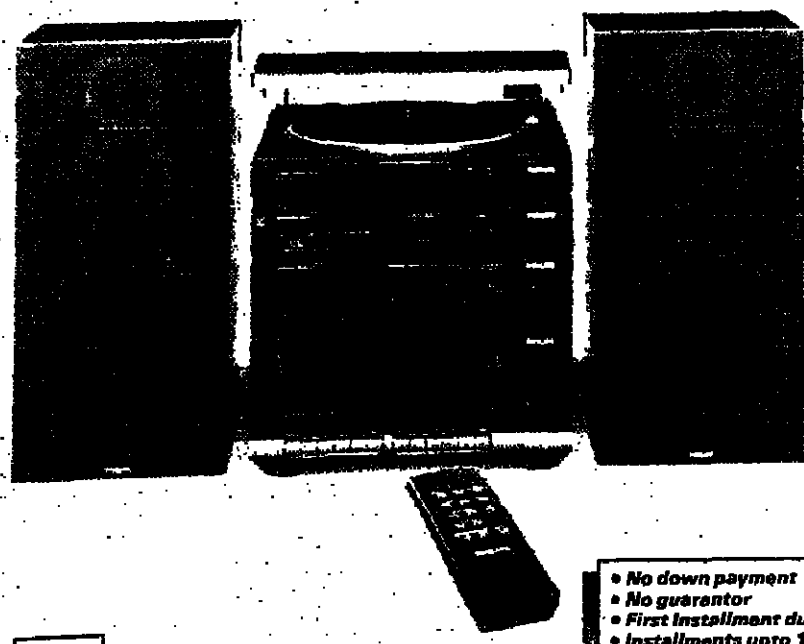
On Aids, Nakajima said: "Half of these (Aids virus carriers) will develop Aids within 10 years and most will die."

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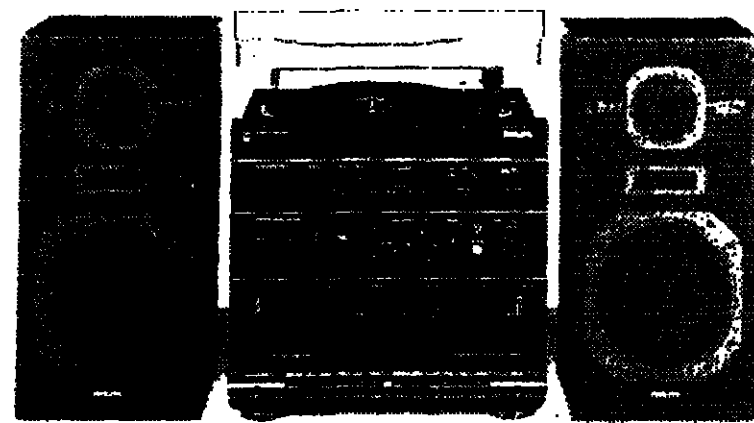
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TAKE A CLOSER LOOK.

PHILIPS

World News Roundup

America

Overseas press awards: A reporter and two photographers for the Associated Press have been cited by the overseas press club for outstanding coverage of news in Romania, China and Iran.

The club, at its annual banquet Monday night, also observed a minute's silence and announced it was sending cables of protest to the 18 nations where 76 journalists are imprisoned.

Among the awards:
■ HAL Boyle award for newspaper or news service reporting. Rosenblum, Kristof and Wudunn.

■ Bob Considine award for newspaper or news service interpretation. Jackson Diehl of the Washington Post, articles on Eastern Europe, with a citation to Claudia Rosset of the Wall Street Journal, on China.

■ Robert Capa gold medal for photo reporting or interpretation requiring exceptional courage or enterprise. Turnley, citations to Widener and to Christopher Morris of Black Star for Time magazine, for photos from Panama.

■ Olivier Rebot award for photo reporting. Peter Turnley, Newsweek, for the fall of Romanian President Nicolai Ceausescu.

■ Cornhus Ryan award for best book. Thomas L. Friedman for "From Beirut to Jerusalem."

US probes Nazi-hunters: The US justice department has begun a probe of alleged misconduct by the department's chief Nazi-hunters, the Washington Post reported on Tuesday.

The newspaper said two members of the House of Representatives had been told of the investigation, "a sign that the controversy over US handling of accused war criminals may continue long after all the principal suspects are dead."

It said the department's office of professional responsibility wrote to William Dannemeyer and David Dreier, Republican Congressmen from the State of California. (Reuter)

Facts show Reagan lied: A prosecutor's remark at John Pindexter's trial that then-President Ronald Reagan lied about trading arms for US hostages was fully supported by the facts, Iran-Contra prosecutors said Monday.

Dan K. Webb's remark in closing arguments was defended in court papers filed by prosecutors in response to defence motions to set aside the former national security adviser's five felony convictions. (AP)

Money for refugee programme: The number of refugees has increased dramatically over the last five years, but a state department official said Monday that many may be able to go home in the 1990s.

However, Princeton Lyman, director of refugee programmes, said it will take a lot of money to resettle displaced people around the globe.

Lyman told a Senate committee that the department wants \$475 million in fiscal 1991 to help refugees.

Refugee problem getting worse: The world refugee problem is getting worse, especially in Africa and Afghanistan, the US State Department's co-ordinator for refugee affairs said at a Senate hearing on Monday.

"The world refugee situation has worsened," Jewel Lafontant told a Senate appropriations subcommittee. "In the last decade, the refugee population has grown from 7.3 million to 15 million."

"I recently returned from a four-week visit to refugee camps and settlements in Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Kenya. I found scared, hungry, sick people, sometimes naked, trying to find a place to put their heads," she said. (Reuter)

Call to fire 'racist' columnist: Tough-talking New York columnist Jimmy Breslin is under fire from fellow journalists for making racist and sexist remarks in the new column.

The Asian-American Journalists Association, upset over Breslin's denigration of a Korean-American reporter last week, has asked New York Newsday to fire the veteran journalist.

"We don't need someone like Breslin, who claims to speak for the man on the street, throwing sexual and racial insults around," Helen Zia, head of the 750-strong group, said on Monday. "We're asking for him to be fired. He's compromised and abused his responsibility." (Reuter)

On top of Mt. Everest: The scaling of Mount Everest by six climbers from the United States, China and the Soviet Union is testament to what can be accomplished through international co-operation and friendship, expedition leaders said Tuesday.

"I think the best word is ecstatic. Everybody here has got huge grins on their faces and we're very very happy," said Warren Thompson, deputy leader of the expedition. (AP)

"Dying" to see green lawns: Some residents of Santa Barbara, California are dealing with a ban on watering their lawns by painting or dying their withered grass green. Santa Barbara, like Los Angeles, 60 miles (100 km) to the south, is in its fourth year of severe drought.

Los Angeles, which takes its water from the Sierra Nevada mountains and the Colorado river, has ordered a 10 per cent reduction in water usage but has ruled out a ban on watering lawns. (Reuter)

Discovery back home: Space Shuttle Discovery returned to Kennedy Space Centre on Monday, almost two weeks after it lifted off with the Hubble space telescope.

The shuttle came strapped atop a specially fitted Boeing 747, which had left Robins Air Force Base in Georgia 11-2 hours earlier. The plane was forced to stop at Robins overnight because of bad weather in Florida.

It was the second weather delay on the shuttle's piggyback ride home. The spacecraft and jet were held overnight Saturday at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas after leaving Edwards Air Force Base in California earlier in the day. (AP)

Asia

Americans held in Vietnam: A Hong Kong-based American publisher and another US citizen have been arrested by Vietnamese authorities and are being held in Ho Chi Minh City, friends said Tuesday.

Official Vietnam media has made no mention of the arrests. Friends of publisher Michael Morrow, who said they have been in touch with Vietnamese authorities, said the two Americans were being held on unspecified charges.

Morrow's colleagues spoke on condition of anonymity. They said Morrow said he and an unidentified American were on trip to look into possible investments in Vietnam when they were arrested.

A third person, French businessman Terry Rodzyk, was also reportedly arrested but subsequently released and allowed to leave the country. (AP)

Anti-Li poster: Chinese police on Tuesday hurriedly covered up a poster on a Beijing street corner attacking hardline Premier Li Peng and President Yang Shangkun in a brief show of political discontent, witnesses said.

The poster, the widely written "big character" poster was taped up on a public bulletin board near the Beijing Normal University until police moved in and placed a seal over it.

The unsigned poster, dated May 7, praised Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin, the People's Liberation Army and the Chinese people but it added: "Down with Li Peng, Yang Shangkun and the government."

A witness told Reuters: "There was a big crowd of people watching as about 10 policemen came by and covered up the poster with a red seal." (Reuter)

Tibet travel rules tightened: Chinese authorities in Tibet announced strict new controls Monday on foreign travel to the region, with each traveller required to submit an application in advance to local authorities.

The new rules apply even to ordinary tourists, making it unlikely that tourism will revive to the levels before March 1988, when martial law was imposed to end pro-independence rioting. Martial law was lifted only last week.

The official Xinhua news agency quoted in Tang Zhenqun, deputy secretary-general of the regional government, as saying the controls were imposed because Tibet has limited capacity to accommodate foreign travellers.

Authorities clearly were concerned about contact between foreigners and Tibetans who for three years have demonstrated for independence. (AP)

Foetus survives abortion: A woman pregnant with twins gave birth to a healthy girl after doctors aborted the other foetus she was carrying, the Medical Journal of Australia reported this week.

An article in the journal's May issue said doctors in Adelaide aborted the foetus, a male, after they found it had thalassaemia — a rare genetic disorder that usually leaves children handicapped and kills before maturity.

In an editorial, the journal warned that selective termination was a thorny issue that had "a sinister ring to it, with perhaps even connotations of eugenics (manipulating offspring to create superior humans)." (Reuter)

Bump on head helps sumo: A self-inflicted blow to the head took Shuhei Nagao into the ranks of Japan's mighty sumo wrestlers on Tuesday, two months after he was turned down for being too short.

The former university wrestler stood only 170 cm (just under five feet, 11 inches) at the Japan Sumo Association's last pre-tournament physical in March, three cm (one and a quarter inches) below the minimum height. (Reuter)

Latin America

Guatemala suspend DC-6 flights: Guatemala temporarily suspended DC-6 flights on Monday after a plane crash on Saturday that killed 23 people and seriously injured eight, authorities said.

Local newspapers reported five people were still missing although rescue teams evacuated the accident scene on Sunday. Authorities had originally said 18 people, including 15 on the ground, were killed when the cargo plane crashed into a crowded residential area.

The DC-6 plane, carrying clothing and vegetables in addition to the crew, spluttered and eventually nosedived into a two-storey home. (Reuter)

Quake shakes Panama: A strong earthquake shook the Pacific Coast of Panama on Monday night, the university of Panama's seismic institute said.

No damage or injuries were reported in the quake that occurred at 7:02 pm (8:02 pm EDT). The seismic institute registered the quake at 6.1 on the Richter Scale.

It happened between the Coco and Nazari plates, toward Costa Rica, in the south of Panama, said Jaime Toral of the seismic institute. (AP)

Aylwin admits problems: The defence minister acknowledged Monday that the new Chilean government is having problems with the military, which is upset over plans to investigate human rights abuses.

"The road of reconciliation between civilians and military that we are seeking is having difficulties," Defence Minister Patricio Rojas told reporters. "We are overcoming those problems without abandoning our main objective." (AP)

Lima, Fujimori too poor: Novelist Mario Vargas Llosa and agronomist Alberto Fujimori took their campaigns for Peru's presidency to Lima shantytowns as opinion polls on Monday showed Fujimori losing his lead a month before the voting.

Fujimori, in blue jeans and a shirt-sleeves, spent the weekend barnstorming Lima's poorest shantytowns where millions of people live in mud-brick shacks and amid open sewers and piles of garbage.

"The humble people, the people who work for a living like you all, will be the ones who decide the election," Fujimori, who defines himself as a pro-business centrist, told cheering supporters in the Bayovar Shantytown on Sunday night. (Reuter)

Free-market ideals: But critics accuse them of adhering to communist ideals and seeking to reimpose totalitarian rule.

News that the talks had broken down were greeted with nervous indignation on university square. Protest speeches, which normally begin late in the day, started shortly after delegation members reported that the meeting had been abortive.

Hezbollah quashes all hopes

Plenty of diversions

Hostages play games

BEIRUT, May 8. (Reuter): A top pro-Iranian leader quashed hopes today of earlier freedom for 15 Western hostages in Lebanon, blaming United States intransigence.

Hezbollah official Hussein Mousawi said in an interview the captives could be held beyond this year because of Washington's refusal to negotiate with hostage-takers.

"This issue has been turned into a very complicated case because of the negative American stands... this year may not witness a solution for the hostages held in Lebanon," he said.

Asked whether Hezbollah, which is widely believed to control the hostage-takers, would agree to a swap of Israeli servicemen it holds in return for Arab prisoners, Mousawi said that "was impossible."

Freedom for hundreds of Arabs from Israeli jails has been a key demand by Muslim kidnappers to free their Western captives, who include six Americans and three Britons.

Mousawi said "positive indications" of a breakthrough in the hostage crisis that followed the release last month of Americans Robert Pollitt and Frank Herbert Reed "have diminished."

"The hostage issue will face stagnation for a certain period," said Mousawi, who was speaking in a telephone interview with the Communist Party radio, Voice of the People, from the eastern Lebanese town of Baalbeck.

The influential Hezbollah leader said a breakthrough in the hostage saga could be reached if

Washington exerted pressure on Israel to free Lebanese Shi'ites and Palestinian prisoners.

"This matter will have positive effects in achieving a breakthrough in the hostage problem," Mousawi said.

But Israel insisted again that any deal to release Western hostages held by Lebanese militants should include freedom for six

missing Israeli servicemen.

Iran has hinted that Britain would get no help in freeing British hostages in Lebanon while an Iranian student was in a British jail without trial.

"The British press as well as British politicians and (the Church of England) would do well to demand some explanation from the government for its

malicious treatment of Muslims in England including the imprisonment without trial of the Iranian student," the Iranian news agency Irna said yesterday.

Most Britons believe the UK government should be prepared to negotiate with kidnappers for the release of the British hostages, according to an opinion poll published today.

"That's very difficult," she said. "Part of you wants him to have known and dealt with it and part of you believe it might be too much for him if he found out in captivity."

CDU party leading in Croatian elections

ZAGREB, May 8. (AP): A centre-right party that advocates Croatia's independence from the rest of Yugoslavia took a commanding lead yesterday in early returns from the final round of the republic's first free elections in 50 years.

With partial votes from 95 constituencies counted, candidates for the Croatian Democratic Union were leading in 48 constituencies ahead of communists, who led in 34.

A centrist coalition of independents and other smaller parties led in the remaining 13.

The apparent CDU victory seems likely to exacerbate political and ethnic tensions with other regions in Yugoslavia, particularly traditional rival Serbia, which is still under orthodox one-party communist rule.

In the first round of voting April 22-23, the CDU won 104 of 131 seats decided for the 356-seat tri-cameral regional parliament.

About 1.5 million Croatians voted on Sunday and Monday in 111 constituencies throughout the republic for the remaining 225 seats. Final results were not expected until tomorrow.

The Croatian Communist Party — renamed the Party for Democratic Reform — gathered only 13 seats in the first round, while the centrist Coalition for National Accord, considered a pre-election favourite, won 3.

"Croatians voted for us because we have offered them democracy to replace years of one-party monopoly," said Franjo Tudjman, leader of the Democratic Union.

"Now we have to start fulfilling everything we promised to our voters," he said, celebrating with champagne at the party's headquarters in Zagreb.

Before the elections, Tudjman said he was confident his party would win a majority and would later elect him Croatia's new president.

Tudjman, 66, once Yugoslavia's youngest army general, spent almost five years in jail for activities alleged to be nationalist and hostile to the state.

Yugoslavia's founding father, Josip Broz Tito, was a Croat, but purged nationalists in Croatia to retain his control of the country.

Anti-Tito sentiments are growing around the nation 10 years after his death.

Voters in a Zagreb district chose a Democratic Union candidate over Tito's son, Alexander "Mile" Broz, who was running for the old-guard communists.

By contrast, the reform communists' leader, Ivo Raskovic, who has guided Croatia to democracy in the past six months, won his Zagreb district.



Warm reception

Chinese President Yang Shangkun (left) on Tuesday hailed the "eye-catching achievements" of the President of the United Arab Emirates in promoting peace and pledged China's support for Arab diplomacy.

During a welcoming banquet for Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan (right) Yang promised continued support for the Arab people's "just struggle... to restore their national rights and seek a just and complete settlement to the Middle East problem." (See Page 10) (See Page 11)

China missile ready for sale

US fears Israel target

WASHINGTON, May 8. (Reuter): A new medium-range ballistic missile being developed by China apparently primarily for export to the Middle East could be ready for deployment in as little as two years, US officials and analysts said.

An official at the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency said last week China had tested the M-9 missile in the past year. This was confirmed by a State Department official.

The M-9 is a ground-launched surface-to-surface missile with a range of 375 miles (600 km). China has exhibited pictures of the new weapon with specifications at arms fairs in the past two years but was not previously thought to have reached a test stage in its development.

US officials are worried that sale of such a weapon to the Middle East would upset the arms balance there and provide Arab states with a potent new weapon with which they could target Israel's strategic military airfields, most of which are situated in the Negev desert.

"From testing to deployment would normally take three years. So if they tested it last year, launch is not far off," said a US official.

The United States has repeatedly warned China not to sell weapons to the Middle East and last year gained an assurance that China would not sell medium-range missiles to the region.

ready for deployment by 1992," said Aaron Karp, an expert on ballistic missiles at Harvard University.

Officials said there was likely to be healthy demand for such a missile from Arab countries and China has already held exploratory talks with Iraq, Syria and Libya. Syria has been trying for years to get an accurate ballistic missile but the Soviet Union has refused to sell them one.

"It's been tested in China. It's certainly intended for export, there's no doubt about that," said one administration official.

In 1988, China sold a longer-range ballistic missile, the CSS-2 east wind with a range of 1,800 miles (2,880 km) capable of carrying chemical or nuclear warheads to Saudi Arabia.

Karp said the Chinese were building the missile so that it could be fired from Soviet missile launchers. The Scud is a relatively old and inaccurate Soviet missile which many Arab states possess.

The United States has repeatedly warned China not to sell weapons to the Middle East and last year gained an assurance that China would not sell medium-range missiles to the region.

US bases in Greece

'Bombing planned'

ATHENS, May 8. (Reuter): Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi was planning to launch a missile attack against an American base on the island of Crete after a US air raid on Libya in 1986, a statement by the Libyan embassy in Athens said today.

The statement quoted Khaddafi's address via satellite from Tripoli to private conference on peace in the Mediterranean sponsored by a Greek organisation in Crete on Saturday.

"An American military base on the island of Crete was subject to missile bombing by Libya in 1986 when America thought of using it for aggression against our country," Khaddafi said.

He said he had warned the socialist government then ruling Greece of his intentions and asked authorities to evacuate the island "as it was likely to be turned into a battlefield between Libya and the United States of America."

The embassy statement included no explanation by Khaddafi of why the attack was not carried out.

Khaddafi threatened to retaliate against any island in the Mediterranean Sea if it was to be used by the United States for another attack against Libya.

"America would sacrifice the security of any Mediterranean island, of any country in Europe for the sake of its own security," he said.

Don't mix politics, Islam: Chadli

ALGIERS, May 8. (Reuter): President Chadli Benjedid, whose government is under fire from Islamic fundamentalists, has plunged into a debate raging in Algeria over relations between Islam and politics by saying the two should not mix.

In his first public remarks since tens of thousands of Muslim fundamentalists marched on his palace last month ahead of the first free elections in June, Chadli attacked what he called an Islam of charlatanism and demagoguery.

"Islam, which is a sacred religion, should not be mixed with politics and the manoeuvres of parties so as not to diminish its value," he told Islamic scholars attending a conference on the future of Islam yesterday.

An escalating war of words pits the Fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) against Chadli's ruling National Liberation Front (FLN), the two main contestants in the June 12 local elections.

FLN officials have stepped up attacks on the FIS in recent weeks, denouncing its control of major urban mosques and portraying it as an extremist deviation from the Islam traditionally practised in Algeria.

A four-day conference organised by the London-based Centre for studies on the future of Islam essentially endorsed the FLN's view of a moderate, democratic Islam, and Chadli did not hide his satisfaction.

FIS spokesman Abbasi Madani, who was not invited, dismissed the conference as "drawing room Islam," Algerian radio said.

Chadli, 61, launched the country on a difficult road to multi-party democracy after October 1988 youth riots.

He has announced free elections for municipal and provincial councils on June 12 but resisted demands to dissolve Parliament, still entirely FLN and not due for re-election until 1992.

The fundamentalists, drawing on economic discontent and widespread dissatisfaction with 27 years of one-party rule, showing unprecedented boldness by marching into Chadli's front yard to demand parliamentary elections within three months.

Chadli yesterday warned the fundamentalists and other opponents to respect the rule of democracy. "Neither the Algerian people nor its system will accept that power be taken from above or by exploiting the social and economic difficulties of the country," he said.

The FLN launched a campaign last month to denounce the use of Friday sermons in the mosques for political ends.

But the fiery young FIS preacher Ali Benhadj told worshippers in the capital's Kouba mosque last Friday, "we are in the mosques like the fish are in the sea."

Many opposition figures say the FLN has only itself to blame for the entrenchment of the FIS in many mosques.



Quayle meets Maggie

Vice President Dan Quayle shown above wearing a pilot's jacket on his first European tour as vice president, Tuesday discussed with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher German unification, the future role of NATO and the democratic reform of Eastern Europe.

Their meeting of just under an hour at 10 Downing Street on the 45th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day was largely ceremonial, however.

Quayle gave Thatcher a silver dollar commemorating the 10th anniversary of the birth of president Dwight Eisenhower Oct 14, 1950. He was accompanied by his wife, Marilyn shown above left to Quayle and representatives of the Eisenhower Foundation.

The vice president arrived in Britain from Rome on Monday on the second leg of a three-nation European tour to plan celebrations for the centennial (UPI)

For Italian reds

Another setback

ROME, May 8. (AP): The Italian Communist Party failed to slow its decline, suffering another setback at the polls in voting in 15 of Italy's 20 regions, partial results showed yesterday.

The long-dominant Christian Democrats showed small losses in the voting on Sunday and Monday while the Socialists, Italy's No. 3 party, registered gains, according to the projections aired on state-run television evening newscasts more than eight hours after polls closed.

Local parties demanding greater regional autonomy in Lombardy and Veneto in the north showed surprising success.

By 10 pm (2000 GMT), two thirds of the precinct results were tabulated. Complete official results were not expected before today, but the partial results were in line with the projections by the respected Doxa polling organisation.



North Pole bound

Two Norwegians become the first people to walk unaided to the North Pole on May 8 Erling Kagge (left) and Berge Gustavsen began their 800 km walk on March 8 from Canada having lost a third member on the way. (Reuter wirephoto)

Africa

Hostages freed: Somalia on Tuesday named the two Europeans aboard a light aircraft hijacked on Sunday to Ethiopia as Lucien Roggeman, and Eros Perini, an Italian who was piloting the plane. Police seized the plane and freed the hostages. On Monday talks were underway for the plane and those on board to be returned.

Their single-engine Cessna was hijacked to the Ethiopian border town of Dolo by two Somalis while on a flight from Bardera in southern Somalia to the capital Mogadishu.

The Somali Transport Ministry said both Europeans were employees of the Italian construction company Muri. Also on board was a Somali national working for the same firm, it said. (Reuter)

Saharan highway project revived: Four countries in Northwest Africa have revived plans to complete a trans-Saharan highway running from Algiers to Lagos in Nigeria.

Representatives of Algeria, Tunisia, Niger and Mali met in Tunis at the weekend and agreed to ask the Islamic Development Bank to seek funds for the uncompleted sections of the 5,500-km (3,400-mile) highway.

Nigeria, traditionally a member of the trans-Saharan highway liaison committee, did not take part.

The project, originally launched in 1962, lost momentum in the 1980s and 1,423 km (884 miles) of the route has never been completed.

Dialogue between Iliescu and protesters breaks down

BUCHAREST, May 8. (AP): Anti-Communist protesters stormed out of a meeting with interim President Ion Iliescu today, dashing government hopes of ending a marathon demonstration seeking Iliescu's resignation.

The abortive meeting ended minutes after it began, when the government delegation refused to permit videotaping of the meeting and the protesters' delegation turned down a counteroffer of a stenographer to take minutes.

At downtown university square, site of the anti-Iliescu protest, about 1,000 people had gathered by midday, loudly demanding Iliescu's resignation and calling his National Salvation Front, which dominates the interim government, a party of "neo-communists."

The demonstrators, who have kept up a round-the-clock protest for 17 days, said they would continue until May 20, when the country goes to the polls for the first free national elections in more than 45 years.

Iliescu, a former Communist Party official, became a critic of former dictator Nicolae Ceausescu in the early 1970s and was relegated to lesser posts because of his outspoken stance.

After Ceausescu was toppled in December and the National Salvation Front rose to prominence, Iliescu and other former communist officials within the front publicly broke with their Marxist past and embraced democratic

free-market ideals. But critics accuse them of adhering to communist ideals and seeking to reimpose totalitarian rule.

News that the talks had broken down were greeted with nervous indignation on university square. Protest speeches, which normally begin late in the day, started shortly after delegation members reported that the meeting had been abortive.

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Hostages: Israel under pressure

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 8, (AP): Moshe Arad, Israel's ambassador to Washington, today defended his country's position on a hostage deal, saying pressure from the families of captured Israeli soldiers prevented any one-sided concessions.

Arad's remarks on Israel radio were part of a series of statements reacting to US pressure on Israel to free Shiite Muslim prisoners to encourage further releases of Western hostages held in Lebanon.

The office of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir issued a statement on the hostages, saying Israeli captives had to be part of any deal.

"Israel again declares its readiness to release Lebanese detainees it holds in exchange for the return of all its prisoners and those missing in action," said the statement by Shamir spokesman Avi Pazner.

Three Israeli soldiers were captured in Lebanon in 1986, and are believed held by the pro-Iranian Hezbollah militia, which is believed to be connected to groups holding 16 Western hostages.

Arad outlined Israel's position in a meeting in Washington today with Peggy Say, the sister of US hostage Terry Anderson. Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent of the Associated Press, was kidnapped in March 1985, making him the longest-held of the Western hostages.

Mrs Say urged him to pressure Israel's government to free Shiites held by Israel to win the freedom of her brother.

"I explained to her... that the families of the missing soldiers are also in a difficult situation because they haven't heard from their sons for many years," Arad said in an interview aired today.

"I also explained to her as I have explained to other Americans, that Israel will do its part to help with the release of all hostages as part of a package deal that includes the release of the Israeli captives," Arad said.

Presiding from the families was also cited by Gen. Yehonatan Lahad, commander of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army militia that holds about 300 Shiites at its Al Khiam prison in South Lebanon.

Lahad said on Middle East television yesterday that he would not trade his detainees for Western hostages unless efforts were made to include eight missing SLA fighters and the three Israelis.

Lahad said that when rumours spread last month that he would free 30 to 40 detainees in exchange for the release of two US hostages, he was pressured by prisoner families to reconsider.

"The international publicity... created concern among the families of the SLA fighters and the Israeli prisoners who accused us of releasing prisoners in return for foreign hostages while doing nothing for our hostages," Lahad said.

Lahad said he would resume regular prisoner releases once the current process resumed.

The Lahad interview and Pazner's statement were apparently in response to appeals for goodwill gestures to encourage Lebanese groups to free their Western captives.

On Sunday, US Sen. Daniel Moynihan, a New York Democrat, considered a strong supporter of Israel, said Israel cannot hold hostages against international law, against humanitarian claims, humanitarian demands.

Ultimatum to Algeria

BEIRUT, May 8, (Reuters): A Libyan-backed Palestinian group said yesterday it had given Algeria three days to free one of its fellow fighters and lift restrictions on its activities.

A statement issued by the Palestinian Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC), led by Abu Nidal, said the group met Algerian envoy Mohamed Yehia in Beirut on Sunday and gave him government a three-day deadline to respond to its demands.

The group asked Algeria to free FRC member Hisham Mohammed in the next three days and lift restrictions on the group's activities in that country.

The statement gave no details as to why Mohammed Saqr was held, by whom or what restrictions the Algerian authorities had imposed on the organisation. Nor did it say what action would be taken if its demands were ignored.

"I regret that our office in Algeria is still under siege by an armed Algerian party," the statement added without giving further details. "Our movement took measures to counter this and we had warned the Algerian president about this," it said.

On April 25, a dissident FRC member in Algiers said a death squad sent by Abu Nidal attacked one of his colleagues.

'Possible and natural' Scholar says on Islam, democracy

ALGIERS, May 8, (Reuters): Leading Islamic scholars and intellectuals attending a conference on the future of Islam yesterday said multi-party democracy was not only compatible with the Muslim faith but necessary in the modern world.

"It is neither moral nor possible to demand freedom for ourselves when we are persecuted and refuse it to others when we are in a position of strength," Tunisian fundamentalist leader Rachid Ghannouchi told a panel discussion.

Ghannouchi, who lives in exile, is fighting for political freedom in Tunisia where his Nahdha (Renaissance) Movement is banned.

Mohamed Salim Elawa, an Egyptian jurist, said the equivalent of political parties existed in the early days of Islam. "Multi-party democracy must be recognised because reality is diverse, and the diversity of opinion is recognised."

But Sudanese fundamentalist leader Hassan Turabi, whose National Islamic Front is thought to have close ties to the ruling military junta, sounded a

somewhat discordant note. While agreeing that Islamic multi-party democracy was "possible and natural" he warned that "liberalism" could threaten the foundations of Islam.

He attacked Western-style democracy as antagonistic to Islam, citing the case of a Muslim schoolgirl in France initially barred from wearing a veil in class.

"The attitude toward multi-party democracy varies according to the stages of creation expansion and growth of the Islamic movement," he said, suggesting it may not always be appropriate.

The four-day conference, organised by the London-based Centre for Studies on the Future of Islam, is due to end with a series of recommendations.

Algerian President Chadli Benjedid received several of the participants yesterday and expressed support for their work, according to Algerian radio.

Yemens speed up unity plan

Six months ahead of schedule

SANAA, May 8, (Reuters): North and South Yemen have decided to speed up their planned merger to forestall any attempts to undermine the creation of the Arabian peninsula's most populous country, diplomats and officials in the North say.

They said a formal announcement of the new Yemen republic would be made about six months ahead of schedule, after the two parliaments meet to ratify its draft constitution during the last week of this month.

Initial plans called for the birth of the new state to be declared on November 30 after a popular vote on the constitution at the end of a transition period following ratification.

"The unity process is being speeded up to avoid the possibility of outside interference, mainly through manipulation of religious forces inside the country," said one member of Parliament who wished to remain anonymous.

North Yemeni Information Minister Hassan Al Lauzi would not confirm a widely quoted date of May 26 but told Reuters: "I do not discount declaring the Yemeni republic within two or three weeks."

Yemeni officials from both states have warned of threats to the merger that would end more than 300 years of division between the countries, which have fought fierce border wars in their more recent past.

South Yemen's Minister of State for Union Affairs, Rashid Mohammed Thabit, said in an interview earlier this year that "hostile internal forces" with outside links were threatening the merger.

North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh told a rally last month that those who were "trying to plant thorns on the road to Yemeni unity under the pretext of Islam or through strange and radical ideas," would fail.

No fingers have been pointed publicly. Privately, officials say they believe neighbouring Saudi Arabia viewed the creation of a unified Yemeni state along its southern border with some apprehension.

Saudi Arabia's King Fahd publicly supported the union moves after a visit to Riyadh by Saleh in February.

But diplomats and officials in Sanaa say the kingdom is uncomfortable with idea of a united Yemen enjoying a more liberal political system and a population of some 13 million.

Saudi Arabia also has about 13 million residents but Yemenis are a significant proportion of the total.

The draft constitution guarantees a multi-party system. Socialist South Yemen is now ruled by a single party and the north has no political parties.

"I suspect the main reason for putting the unity announcement where it is expected now is to forestall any difficulties which might arise," one senior diplomat said.

"If there is any attempt by any of Yemen's neighbours to cause difficulties then the quicker they get into a strong position the less likely it is to happen."

Saudi Arabia has strong links with fiercely independent tribes living on the disputed borders with the two Yemens.

Reports last month of clashes with tribesmen in the northern border town of Saadah have been discounted by officials and foreign diplomats in Sanaa but underline the tension preceding the unity announcement.

some 30,000 housing units have been built for Jews since Israeli troops captured occupied Arab east Jerusalem from Jordan in the 1967 Middle East war.



Crying for reforms

An Israeli protesting for electoral reform is pushed back to the sidewalk on Monday by Israeli Knesset police as he attempts to get closer to parliamentarians as they arrive for the opening session of the Knesset (parliament). Thousands of Israelis converged on the Knesset demanding an end to political brokering by leaders who fell out over making peace with Palestinians. (Reuters wirephoto)

Shift in Israeli Mideast policy

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 8, (AP): Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said yesterday that Israel cannot possibly reach a settlement with the Palestinians without achieving peace with its Arab enemies.

The statement was the latest expression of a shift in Israel's Middle East peace policy away from debate over a dialogue, promoted by the United States, between Palestinian and Israel.

Now, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and members of his caretaker government are emphasising the need for broader-based negotiations with the Arab world.

"It is hard to reach peace with the Arab world without dealing with the Palestinian issue. It is impossible to reach a settlement with the Palestinians outside of the context of peace with the Arab countries," Arens said, speaking in the Knesset, or parliament.

Only Egypt has signed a peace treaty with Israel.

He noted that Israel's peace plan, approved by the government in May 1989, called for an end to the state of war with Arab states and foreign aid to help resettle Palestinians living in refugee camps.

The plan also offered Palestinian elections in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip and limited autonomy in these areas, the scene of the nearly 29-month Palestinian uprising.

At least 684 Palestinians have died in the revolt, and 43 Israelis have been slain.

Some 212 Palestinians have been killed by their brethren on suspicion of being pro-Israeli collaborators in the uprising.

The latest deaths came yesterday in the Gaza Strip, where Israeli troops shot and killed Mohammed Musa, 17, during a stone-throwing clash in the town of Rafah, Arab hospital officials said.

In the Maghazi refugee camp, masked assailants stabbed to death Zaki Abdel Khader, 25, and wounded his brother Hamza. Arab reports suggested they were suspected informers.

The army said it was checking the reports of the deaths.

Jeers, spit at Israeli MP

Rally for reform

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 8, (Agencies): Thousands of Israelis demanding electoral reform yesterday booed legislators as they drove past the crowd to reach Parliament for the opening of the summer session.

Dozens of police officers held back the about 4,000 protesters as they jeered, spat and waved placards reading: "We are sick of you" and "No less than democracy." They hurled insults and called them trash.

The demonstration coincided with the opening of the Knesset (Parliament) and a ceremony marking the 45th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany.

The rally was the latest protest by a growing Electoral Reform movement. The protests were sparked by the political horse-trading following the March 15 collapse of the ruling coalition of the left-leaning Labour Party and the right-wing Likud bloc.

After the two rival parties tried for the past six weeks to lure defectors from each other's camps with offers of political posts and money, they were growing signs yesterday that another Likud-Labour government was in the offing.

Israel television reported that both parties were considering a compromise by the National Religious Party that would avoid a clear yes-or-no answer to US Middle East peace proposals.

The last government was toppled by Labour after Likud refused to accept proposals by US Secretary of State James Baker that would lead to an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo.

At the protest rally in front of Parliament, meanwhile, the crowd chanted "we're fed up" as legislators drove past.

"The general feeling is that there is nobody who is actually representing you," said Mike Marmar, a rabbinical student who immigrated from London four years ago.

"The feeling of complete separation from the people who live in that building is very hard-felt," Marmar said, pointing to the Parliament building across the street.

Another demonstrator, veteran Soviet Jewish immigration activist Vladimir Slepak, said he never expected he would one day protest against the Israeli government.

"In the Soviet Union we knew there was one party and we knew what they would do. But here nobody knows what will be tomorrow," said Slepak who arrived in Israel after waging a long fight against Soviet authorities for permission to emigrate.

Rally organisers accused politicians of abusing democracy and demanded that an independent commission appointed by President Chaim Herzog work out a new electoral system.

The campaign, led by dozens of Israeli mayors and army reserve officers, has collected more than half a million signatures.

Najib names Yaar premier

ISLAMABAD, May 8, (AP): Afghan President Najibullah named Herat Governor Fazle Haq Khalil Yaar to head his communist government yesterday, radio Kabul reported.

The appointment came as a rocket attack on the Afghan capital killed one person and wounded two, the state-run Radio said.

The radio broadcast, monitored in Islamabad, blamed the rocket attack on US-armed rebels. No one claimed responsibility for the attack.

Khalil Yaar's appointment as prime minister follows on the heels of Sunday's promotion of Sultan Ali Keshmand to the vice-presidency.

The former Herat governor was seriously wounded last April when rebels staged a bloody surprise attack on a supposed surrender ceremony of thousands of rebel fighters.

Hidden among more than 10,000 defectors at the ceremony in the northwestern province of Herat were a handful of mujahedeen, rebels, pretending to have embraced Najibullah's Soviet-style government.

But when Khalil Yaar stepped out of his helicopter to launch the ceremony, the rebel fighters opened fire. When the shooting stopped 30 minutes later, 110 people were dead and scores more injured.

Najibullah lost several top military officers, including Lt. Gen. Jalal Razaminda, a deputy security minister, in the Herat attack.

Jamiat-i-Islami rebel group, considered to be one of the strongest military factions of the Muslim insurgency, claimed responsibility for the Herat attack.

Muslim rebels claimed yesterday to have recaptured ground lost during a week of heavy fighting with Afghan government troops outside the eastern city of Jalalabad.

The state-run radio acknowledged the renewed attack but said the rebels had been repulsed and 180 of them killed.

"With this operation the enemy's morale has been completely broken," Radio Kabul claimed, although the report could not be independently verified.

The radio report also said government soldiers captured hundreds of anti-tank missiles, even more surface-to-surface missiles and thousands of small arms from the US-armed rebel fighters.

Meanwhile, Mideast, the news agency of the Afghan resistance, said rebels overran government security outposts about 12 miles (20 kilometers) east of Jalalabad.

The report claimed Afghan troops suffered heavy casualties in the weekend battle. The report did not say whether there were any rebel casualties, and it could not be independently confirmed.

The radio broadcast, however, said four government soldiers were killed and another seven wounded in the past five days.

Fighting around Jalalabad has erupted sporadically since the rebels launched a major offensive in March 1989 to take the eastern city.

The humanitarian aid organisation Medecins sans Frontieres (Doctors without Frontiers) said today it is freezing its activities in Afghanistan after one of its workers was killed some 10 days ago in the north of the country, officials of the group said.

Judge Ahmed Al Beshir Al Hadi yesterday postponed for the fourth time this year a hearing to determine their fate for bombing a hotel restaurant and shooting at a nearby Expatriates' Club on May 15, 1988. All seven of the dead were in the bombed restaurant.

The British victims were Quakers, a religion that strongly opposes capital punishment or violence of any kind. They included a married couple, both charity workers, and their two toddlers.

The official news agency reported that Al Hadi said relatives of Christopher and Clare Roll and their children Thomas, 3, and Louise, 1, agreed to a pardon. They relinquished their right to blood money, the judge said.

Hussein — Israeli boat incident No point in denying

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 8, (AP): An Israeli navy boat came within 100 yards (metres) of the yacht of Jordan's King Hussein in the Gulf of Aqaba, and crew members took picture of the monarch, Israeli television reported yesterday.

During the April 28 incident, the Israeli patrol boat also fired its two 20-mm guns as part of a weapons check. The king's craft was then at a distance of one kilometre (0.6 mile) from the Israeli vessel, it said.

A Jordanian Navy vessel and Hussein's yacht came closer to the Israeli boat, which then approached the king's yacht, staying at the distance of 100 metres (yards) from it as crew members photographed Hussein, the television said.

"There's no point in saying that this is not part of the (navy) operational procedures," said the TV's military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky.

Arabs watch bitterly as Israel builds homes for Soviet Jews

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 8, (Reuters): Palestinians who are routinely refused permission to build new houses in occupied Jerusalem are watching bitterly while workers erect thousands of homes for newly arrived Soviet Jews.

"When you talk about law, it is different for Jews than for Palestinians," said Mohammed Masri, chairman of the community association in the neighbourhood of Beit Hanina.

The circle of Jewish housing around the Arab areas of occupied east Jerusalem is being drawn tighter. Israel allotted funds this month to build 7,500 units in occupied Jerusalem for Soviet immigrants, most on land near Beit Hanina.

Amir Cheshin, city adviser on Arab affairs, says

some 30,000 housing units have been built for Jews since Israeli troops captured occupied Arab east Jerusalem from Jordan in the 1967 Middle East war.

The city says it does not have figures for Arab housing but a glance at a landscape crowded with fresh Israeli construction supports the Palestinian view that few new houses belong to Arabs.

Officially the reason for the discrepancy is legal — the absence of zoning plans that would allow the city to give building permits.

After more than two decades of debate, and a whittling down of the number of houses that would be permitted, a plan appeared last year for part of occupied east Jerusalem. Arabs say it is so restrictive it will have no effect.

Most vacant land Palestinians could use is in the north of the city, including Beit Hanina. But after 23 years of waiting, there is still no sign of a zoning plan emerging from the Israeli government for that area.

"For the new Jewish quarters it takes two weeks and there is a cornerstone," Masri told Reuters. "The main point is political."

Even replacing existing houses is difficult. Residents are told to destroy their present homes and move to a hotel before building new ones. Arabs are allowed only two or three floors, while they watch eight-storey buildings rise in neighbouring Jewish areas.

With a population of some 150,000 Palestinians

and a high birthrate, residents frequently turn to building without permits.

City authorities have often ignored illegal building, or contended themselves with periodic fines. But the city announced plans recently to flatten an Arab shop and four homes housing 42 people.

"It's to put you in a box so you can't expand on your own land," said Ziad Darwaz, director of the Beit Hanina Association.

The housing debate is inseparable from the wider Israeli-Palestinian struggle. Israelis consider occupied Jerusalem their united capital. Arabs consider the eastern half to be the capital of a future state of Palestine.

Families disagree

KHARTOUM, Sudan, May 8, (AP): Families of seven victims of a terror attack disagree on whether to send the Palestinians who killed them to the gallows or pardon them in exchange for blood money, the Sudan News Agency reported today.

Under Sudan's Islamic law, relatives of the five Britons and two Sudanese killed in the 1988 attack would have to agree on blood money in lieu of punishment to spare the five Palestinians.

Judge Ahmed Al Beshir Al Hadi yesterday postponed for the fourth time this year a hearing to determine their fate for bombing a hotel restaurant and shooting at a nearby Expatriates' Club on May 15, 1988. All seven of the dead were in the bombed restaurant.

The British victims were Quakers, a religion that strongly opposes capital punishment or violence of any kind. They included a married couple, both charity workers, and their two toddlers.

The official news agency reported that Al Hadi said relatives of Christopher and Clare Roll and their children Thomas, 3, and Louise, 1, agreed to a pardon. They relinquished their right to blood money, the judge said.

SSC exams to be held June 7-18

86 committees to supervise

THE assistant undersecretary of education ministry for information and student affairs Abdul Mohsen Al Saeed has said that final exams of Secondary School Certificate SSC for government school students will begin on Thursday June 7 1990 and end Monday June 18. A total of 21,246 students from science and

arts sections will appear for the exams. 29.86 per cent of whom are Kuwaiti nationals. He added that 44.21 per cent of students of arts section are Kuwaitis. Kuwaiti students of SSC science section at the Adults education centre are 440 and non-Kuwaitis 135.

Kuwaiti students who study at arts section in these centres are 881 against 201 non-Kuwaitis. Additionally 662 Kuwaitis studying privately will also appear for the exams compared to 458 non-Kuwaitis. Al Saeed pointed out that the ministry has set up 86 committees to supervise

these exams distributed at different educational areas. The students will perform exams in air-conditioned halls and will enjoy some facilities like medical care, and cold water. He added that exams of the Secondary School Certificate at the Religious Institute will commence on Wednesday June 6.

NEWS IN BRIEF

New contracts

THE undersecretary of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) Abdul Aziz Al Zabin has said that the new contracts will be used for new recruitment retroactively from May 1, 1990. Jobs covered by the new contracts include auxiliary positions and assistant technical posts as well as posts that require no experience.

He ruled out any intention to prepare similar new contracts for professional employees such as doctors, engineers and teachers. He underscored this statement by adding that the idea is not even possible in the future.

He told a local daily that the CSC is currently preparing a circular to be sent to all ministries and government departments outlining the measures to be taken in line with the decision on lump-sum contracts.

KU information

KUWAIT University will reportedly inaugurate the new Information Department sometime next September, and the committee in charge of preparing the study curriculum for this department has finished its academic studies and submitted them to the relevant authorities.

An official source, quoted by a local daily, said that the university will receive the students wishing to join the Information Department as of the first term of the next academic year 90/91 during August next year, and that 30 students will be admitted into this department.

The officials said that the university will commission the 'arts' faculty dean Dr Sulaiman Al Bader to take over the responsibility of running the new department, and that specialist professors will be recruited to teach at the new department.

Illegal aliens

SECURITYMEN at the Coast Guards Department have arrested six Iranian people working on some farms in Jahra, after investigations revealed that they had infiltrated into the country by sea.

Security investigations revealed that an Iranian resident of Kuwait arranged with some people in Iran to give them work on his farm in return for small salaries after entering Kuwait illegally.

The investigations led to the arrest of a number of such illegal infiltrators, some of whom had been in the country for quite a long time.

Media decisions

KUWAIT, May 8, (Kuna): Director General of the Arab Gulf Joint Programme Production Institute Abdul Wahab Al Sultan yesterday said the 20th meeting of the institute's board of directors adopted a number of decisions that would boost the Gulf joint media march.

Speaking to Kuna, Sultan said the meeting which wound up here yesterday, discussed a report on the institute's activities and achievements and approved final accounts of fiscal years 1989-90.



Lebanese prince

Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Saban received Monday the visiting Prince Talal Majeed Arsalan of Lebanon. Friendly talks were exchanged.

Computer viruses rampant

Pirated software causes problems

By Diana Abou Haider
Arab Times staff

THERE are no cures for computer viruses yet, but protection against them is possible through understanding the problem and applying correct measures, said Charles Preston, a computer security consultant visiting Kuwait.

Preston is the main speaker at a 3-day seminar on virus prevention and control that opened at the Sheraton Monday. The seminar is organised by the National Consulting Bureau and Sultan Systems, and attended by 41 computer specialists from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Abu Dhabi and Oman.

Viruses are miniature computer programmes that can be written in any computer language. "They can freeze your keyboard, change definitions of your keyboard keys, format your floppy disks and scramble your data files," said Preston.

He added that virus-caused destruction could happen over a period of months and damage thousands of hours worth of data. "It could also slow your system down to a crawl, insert messages in printed output such as invoices and copy your files to another system if you have a telephone modem without you knowing where the copy went."

Types

According to the computer expert, there are three types of viruses: bombs, Trojan horses and worms. A bomb acts immediately after entering the computer system. Once activated, it executes instructions which range from changing file contents to displaying little "Pac-Man" figures or bouncing balls on the screen. A Trojan horse is a delayed action programme that activates itself only after a specified action occurs such as the occurrence of a selected date or a specified sequence of key strokes. A worm does not usually destroy files. Instead, it slows down the computer's operation by repetitively copying a file until the hard disk is too full to operate efficiently.

"Design of secure systems doesn't keep a virus from changing a programme," said Preston adding that it does not take a programming genius to write a virus. "There are hundreds of books that can tell you exactly how to write a programme."

He added that many are discovering that viruses could be a tool of industrial sabotage.

"The problem will certainly get worse before it gets better, especially as computers get more powerful and more connected. A PC could do today what a main frame computer could seven years ago. Thousands of computers are connected through networks around the world, and there are 30 to 40 million PCs that run on the same programme."

The speaker said that there are more than 50 identified viruses or virus strains that affect IBM PCs today. Among them are the Pakistani or Brain virus that causes excessive disk activity and Stoned that announces itself to the user by printing the message "Your computer is stoned." Another virus called Cascade causes the letters to fall to the bottom of the screen, while the Jerusalem or the Israeli virus will wipe out a whole programme.

Failures

One of the viruses that affect Macintosh computers is called Scores. This miniature programme causes intermittent failure to print on laser printers. Some portions of this virus that infected Nasa computers activate 2 to 7 days after its introduction.

Another virus written by a 14-year-old and called Dukakis prints the following message "Dukakis for President... Peace on earth and have a nice day."

Stressing the role of awareness and education in combating viruses, Preston said that the common belief that viruses are only found in free or shareware programmes is wrong. "Numerous viruses have been shipped in sealed commercial software from reputable dealers."

John Lesniewski, chief executive officer at Sultan Systems and one of the seminar's staff said that viruses are rampant in Kuwait and other Gulf countries because there is a lot of pirated software.

"The most common viruses are Jerusalem, Stoned and Ping Pong. Stoned is the most difficult to get rid of," Lesniewski said adding that setting up a corporate policy to keep viruses from entering the computers of a ministry or a company is of utmost importance.

"Scanning programmes to detect viruses are available, but they need continuous updating," said the expert on cleansing infected computers.

Industry

Arabs cannot compete: Hamad

THE industrial sector in the Arab countries still cannot compete with foreign industries either due to high costs or due to protection measures adopted by the industrial countries. In the final analysis, Arab industries face many problems in marketing their products in foreign markets, according to a study prepared by Kuwait based Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD).

The study which has been prepared by the chairman of the fund Abdullatif Al Hamad said that the Arab countries during the last two decades had laid down the necessary foundation for developing the infrastructure of projects and utilities such as electricity, gas, water, roads and communication projects. However, he commented that these countries had failed to address their economic structure.

It added that most of the Arab countries had realised considerable social development, in addition to high level of education and health services. Nevertheless, the study said, that despite these performances, the Arab countries still suffer unemployment.

Scholarships for Arabic studies to foreigners

KUWAIT UNIVERSITY admits 35 to 45 foreign students per annum from several countries including Asia, Africa, Europe, America and Soviet Union to study the Arabic language according to the director of the linguistic centre of the university Dr Ilham Al Bassam.

In an interview with a local daily, Bassam said that the centre established in 1975 extends scholarships to these foreign students to encourage them to acquire expertise in Arabic for academic objectives.

She added that the applicants should have been conferred a university degree from their countries and should prove their need to study Arabic.

Meanwhile, the official disclosed that the centre is planning to increase the number of the students who could benefit from these scholarships, in addition to increasing the Arabic language curriculum. She added that the linguistic laboratory will be devoted on a continual basis towards the study of the Arabic language. The centre has been provided with the necessary facilities including the Audio-visual equipment and computers, Bassam said.

Working team to set up industrialisation strategy

Protectionist policies

THE Assistant Undersecretary for Financial and Administrative Affairs and the Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Industrial Affairs at Kuwait's Ministry of Commerce and Industry Ali Al Saeed has said that the working team comprising representatives from the ministry of commerce and industry, the ministry of planning, the chamber of commerce and industry, Kuwait Industrial Bank and the Industrialists Federation will hold a meeting this week to set up the headlines for its scheme and to discuss the industrialisation strategy in Kuwait.

In an interview with a local daily, Saeed said that the meeting will discuss studies submitted by the ministry of commerce and industry. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Kuwait Industrial Bank related to the industrial development process and obstacles hindering progress. Meanwhile, the official was quoted as confirming that the Ministry had recently formed three working teams, one to follow up the extent of commitment of local and foreign companies in Kuwait to purchase local industries, the second to discuss the problems facing the current national industries, adding that this team will submit its final report within three months to be followed by an expanded meeting to be attended by representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Kuwait Industrial Bank to discuss how to overcome the problems facing the current industries.

The third team has been formed to discuss the possibility of connecting the local industries protection with the commitment to the standard specs by these industries and the review of the protective policies in order to submit the necessary subsidy for the industries that included the criterions of added value for the national income and how to compute such a value.

Over 600 patients need organ donors

Transplant success rate 95pc

MORE than 600 people in Kuwait need an organ transplant, of whom 300 are patients with renal failure. The total of 800 people have announced their wish to donate their parts after death.

A local daily has interviewed a number of patients suffering from renal failure and who continually undergo dialysis, and also met with Dr Mohammed Al Mosawi, renal disease specialist at the Kuwait Transplants Society.

He said that the renal failure is treated either through artificial cleaning or kidney transplant, pointing out that the first method cleans the kidney from toxic materials through an automated artificial kidney machine.

Patients with renal failure need renal dialysis once every several days to reduce the percentage of toxicity in the blood to keep the patient alive, the official said.

He added that there is great

pressure of patients and that this led the ministry to give six month period to non-Kuwaitis wishing to undergo dialysis, provided that they reached a kidney donor from their close relations.

He said that the best treatment for renal failure is to transplant a healthy kidney and that the operation is preceded by a series of tests to ensure that the new kidney will be accepted by the body of the patients.

Commitment

He said that donated kidneys must be given as an act of religious commitment to help another human being whose life is endangered. Additionally the donation must be made at the free will of the donor and not for gain.

The success percentage of transplants operations exceeds 95 per cent as new antibodies used in the process increased the success rates. Many patients with new kidneys lead a perfect life,

but need to be frequently examined by doctors during the first three months to ensure normalcy, Mosawi said.

Hussa Ahmad said that she had two kidney transplant operations, one in India and the other in Kuwait back in 86. Both operations had setbacks due to the severe case of anaemia that developed due to the use of pills, and appealed to donors to offer her a kidney to relieve her from the agony of artificial cleaning.

Bader Al Mulla a boy of 19 said that he used dialysis three times a week and this kept him from leading a free normal life. He appealed to donors to part with one of their kidneys to relieve him of the pain.

A mother of two said that she is living on her husband's donated kidney and leading a successful life since 1980, but abided by a strict diet and followed the doctor's instructions closely, and added her husband is healthy and well.

Abdalli and Wafra farms inspected

By Jamal Ameen

KUWAIT Municipality Acting Director General Sheikh Sabah Jaber Al Ali paid an inspection visit to the agricultural farms in Abdalli and Wafra and the municipality work centre in both areas to review the progress of services performed by the municipality and to get to know the problems facing farmers.

Sheikh Sabah began his tour by visiting the staff operating at the municipality working centre. The official was briefed on the problems facing work progress, and promised to provide quick solutions and provide them with an air-conditioned bus to transport workers to their worksites.

Allowances

He also ordered the allocation of KD1000 for the cost of maintenance of municipality equipment and construction of other facilities, as well as the endorsement of personal loans to some workers. He also promised to consider applications by others for allowances.

Sheikh Sabah then met with farmers and promised them to effect the necessary co-ordination with the related service ministries to solve their problems, which included shortage of water supply, difficulty of water distribution, sharp road turns which caused traffic accidents and shortage of maintenance services and others.

Other problems pointed out to Sheikh Sabah included the insufficiency of security patrols, lack of power supply installations to new farms, the need to put up traffic signs to reduce road accidents and absence of area planning.

Experiment

Meanwhile, Sheikh Fahd Mubarak Sabah Al Nasser Al Sabah said that the results of the experimental attempts to grow barley in Kuwait were successful and promising and called on the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources to provide farmers with the equipment needed to gather the harvest.

A member of the authority's board of directors and owner of a farm Mutlaq Zaid Al Masoud said that the authority had agreed to set up a special company to market local produce.

He pointed out that the establishment of such a company will enable farmers to get a net profit estimated by minimum 50 per cent and maximum 80 per cent which constitute a great encouragement to farmers and agricultural activities.

Municipality authorised to tear down billboards

THE director of sign boards department at Kuwait Municipality Adnan Al Ghareeb was quoted as saying that the municipality was authorised to confiscate exhibits that might be displayed in the showcase of shops and boutiques in case such exhibits violated the rules of public conduct and contradicted with the country's customs and traditions.

In an interview with a local daily, the official had described the relative law as firm hinting that strict control will be continued.

But, he complained that his department suffered a shortage of employees. He pointed out that the department has currently 65 employees and this number could not be sufficient to cover all the country's areas. He called for the setting up of the necessary study to contain this problem.

Speaking of the penalties to be applied on violators, the official said that penalties ranged from a warning to the revoking of the commercial license of the shop. In some cases the violating shops will be closed down for a specific period or fined.



Computer system launched

THE Kuwait Danish Computer Company (KDCC) yesterday launched the RC 900/RC 9000 computer systems manufactured by RC International (RCI) of Denmark. The RC systems range from 80386 multi-user systems to large mainframes, such as the RC9000, which is a UNIX based system with RISC architecture and be configured from 1 to 32 CPUs in one configuration.

The launch was made at a seminar on computer systems, held at Kuwait Sheraton's Grand Ballroom. More than 150 experts from ministries, banks, oil and education sectors and other government bodies participated.

KDCC began distributing RCI products in 1976, and was one of the first computer companies to provide turnkey solutions to the Kuwaiti market. Some of the bigger computerisation programmes undertaken by KDCC include the civil registration information system network for PACI and a telephone directory inquiry system for the Ministry of Communications. Picture shows: Gunar Laurson (left) and Dr A. Abed, two speakers at the seminar.

Rawda residents bemoan facilities

RAWDA area is one of the ideal areas in the country and all necessary facilities are provided including co-operative societies, Islamic library, wedding hall and a police station.

To expound on this scenario, a local daily interviewed a cross-section of residents.

The general consensus is that though the area is highly rated for its cleanliness, commodities at the co-operative society are in short supply, prices of some commodities are high and the co-operative needs reorganising.

On the health services, they said that there is a shortage of attending physicians at the clinics and quite often medicines are not available. "Wasta" also is predominant and negatively affects bonafide patients. Further, it was claimed that the clinic has

no night duty doctor and people are put to much hardship to go to the adjacent clinics in other areas.

Facilities

On recreational facilities, residents said that the children of the area are in need of a garden, as the current garden which was called Jamal Abdumassad Garden has been neglected and has no adequate facilities. They said that residents of the area are playing role in afforestation and greenery plans adopted by the country.

On security issues, they said that the area is in need of vigilant security personnel as incidents of theft and vandalism have increased.

Electric failures have been common, they said and added that Block No. 2 of the area suffers routine electricity cut.



Raft race

Teams from the Messilah Beach Hotel and Kuwait Danish Dairies will take to the water to practise for the raft race on May 11 at the Messilah Beach Hotel.

Project failures attributed to poor marketing

KIB finances 20 industrial projects

THE chairman of the board and the managing director of the Kuwait Industrial Bank (KIB) Mohammad Al Yousef has expressed his belief that the failure of most industrial projects in the country is attributed to administrative and marketing problems facing these industries.

He said the interest rate imposed on loans offered by the bank is not responsible for the failure of industrial projects. He pointed out that these rates are

not high.

Yousef said the initial feasibility studies submitted to the bank account for 5 per cent interest rate, and outline the economic feasibility of the proposed industrial project in the light of the specified interest rate.

He added that those who push for a reduction in interest rates on industrial loans fail to consider that these long-term loans which range from 7 to 8 years, and that the related interest rates

are unaffected by market fluctuations. Besides the grace period offered from the date of inaugurating or operating the project could last up to 24 months.

He said that the bank would in certain cases re-schedule debts or even overlook some if the industrial project has encountered difficulties outside the control of its owner, pointing out that the interest rates are not a big amount if compared with the other expenditures of factories

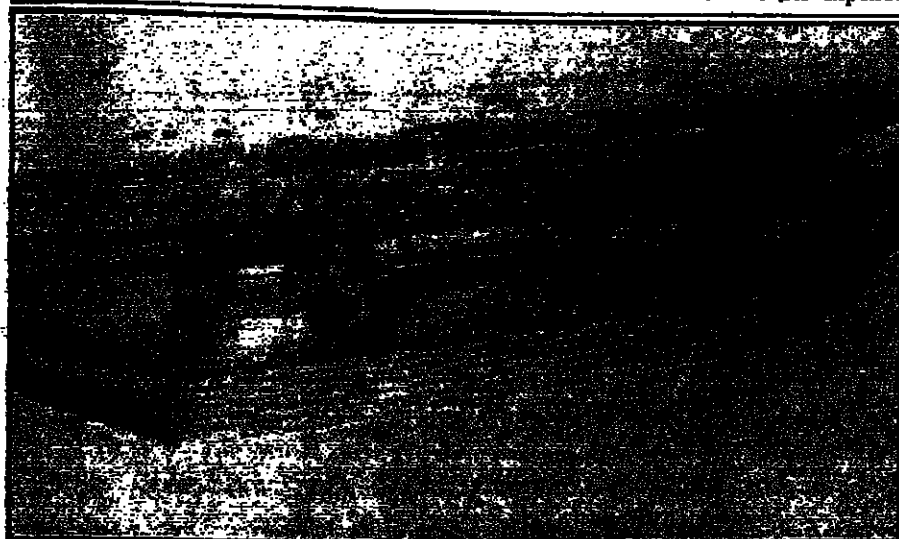
such as salaries and maintenance.

The size of loans offered by the bank is commensurate with the nature and capital of the proposed industrial project. He added that these loans are not limited as some think.

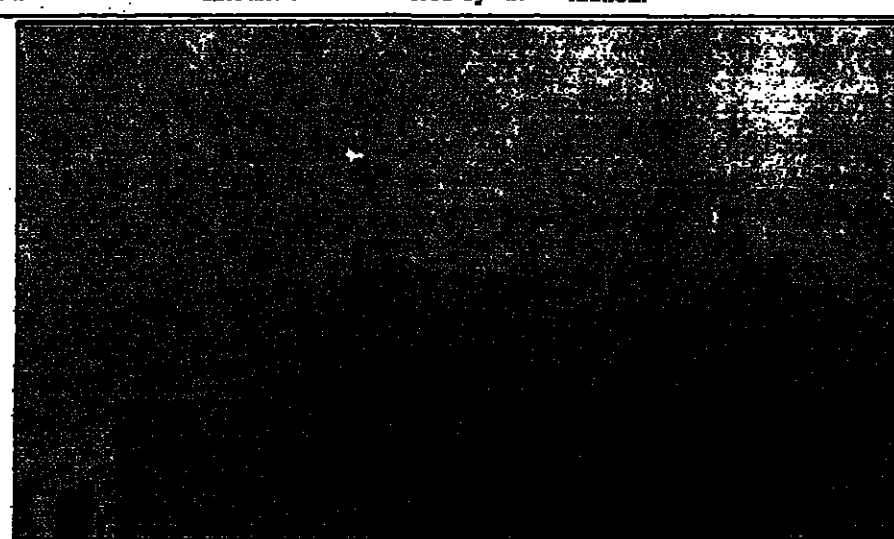
He said that the bank will occasionally contribute up to 50 per cent of the funding of industrial project, and by 100 per cent to the expansion of the project. He pointed out that the total amount of loans offered by the

bank during 1989 is tantamount to KD 23.5 million, with percentage increase of 1368 per cent since 1988 and 227 since 1987.

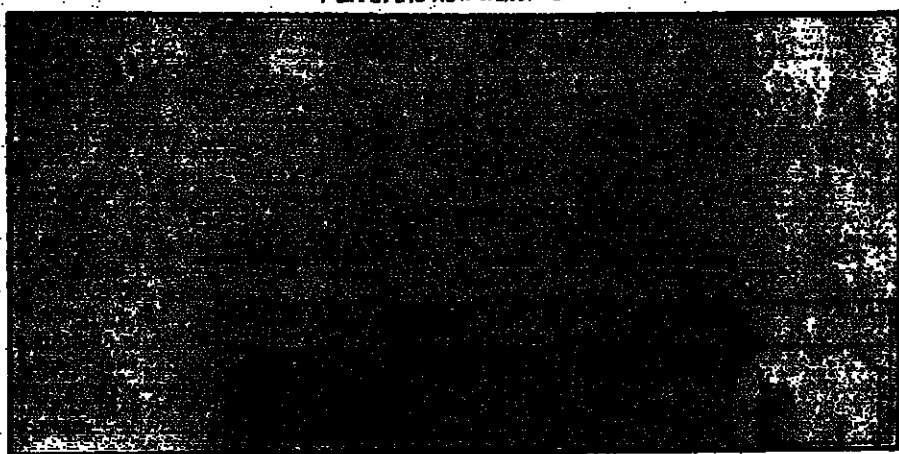
He said that the bank agreed during the last year to finance 20 industrial projects with a total cost of over KD 31 million. He added that the value of cumulative loans offered by the bank since its establishment in 1974 is around KD 327 million distributed over 405 projects with an estimated total cost of more than KD 617 million.



Part of the new waterfront.



Building for ladies and mosque.



Mosque for men.



Popular seaside cafe.

5th stage of waterfront to cost KD 16.5m

THE fifth stage of the waterfront project will be distinguished by its architectural style, the managing director of the design department at the Ministry of Public Works, Fatimah Al Sabah said.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said that this stage, which is envisaged to cost KD 16.5 million, will be completely different than the other four and has been

specifically designed to reflect the country's legacy.

The project which will extend from Ras Al Salmiya up to the Popular Cafe, will be contracted for by the public tender next

month.

The official said that Salmiya Island has been excluded from the project, but added that a watch tower will be built at the end of the construction site. The

project will be provided with all facilities including service centres, car parks for 790 cars, in addition to cruiser berths capable of accommodating about 90 cruisers.

Audio-visual depicts 'Faces of the Desert'

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

TWO exceptionally gifted Poles joined their talents to produce a most moving and artistic portrayal of Kuwaiti desert in an audio-visual show at the Kuwait University students' club Monday night.

'Faces of the Desert,' a fantasy symphony as performed by its composer Marek Bilinski on electronic instruments, the synthesiser and sampler, is an awesome piece of music capable of touching the very core of one's emotional and aesthetic world.

The recording of the music was accompanied by a slide projection of stunning pictures by Jacek Wozniak, who proved to be a master of photography and an equal to Bilinski in terms of creativity. The two artists transformed the stereotype image of a barren, dry and monotonous Kuwaiti desert into a luxury of life, shapes sounds and colour.

A comparatively small audience of mainly Poles and Kuwaitis were spellbound throughout the show and rewarded the artists with thunderous applause. But no one was as surprised as the Kuwaiti, Amer

whose jaw dropped as he watched and listened in amazement.

'Is this Kuwait?' he asked. 'You showed me the Kuwait that I never

imagined many of us in the audience felt at the end of the show as if our desert was restored and one wanted to rush out to the desert to feast one's eyes on the landscape.

The most refreshing aspect of the slide projection was that it completely ignored urban Kuwait and showed the country as it must always have been. In fact it was a slide presentation that had no people or even animals, except for a decaying carcass of a camel. And yet it was infused with life and drama as seen, for example, in a slide portraying sun rays as they push through a rupture in a cloud to reach the sand dunes.

Effect

But much of the dramatic effect comes from the superb Bilinski's score. It has been acknowledged that the electronic music can have greater range and impact than the one performed on conventional instruments. Bilinski used this to his advantage to create a music story that brims with suspense. His music is a celebration of life which is born from the ashes of destruction of such magnitude that nothing less than a cosmic collision could have caused it.

Bilinski's apocalyptic music which thrives on contrast brings forth vividly the images of doomsday when calamity strikes the entire world. Life stops in a silent moment only to give way to surviving, if crippled, forces that seek to recuperate and restore past might. These new beginnings of the world when fresh blades of grass push their way up through the sand, when the new sun rises are among the most lyrical passages in the symphony.

They grow in volume and intensity and throb through *Tempo di Bolero*, which attracted new fans when it brought beads of perspiration on Bo Derek's forehead in '10', a movie that tickled more than just the imagination of many a man. But Bilinski's Bolero has a much more



Wozniak (left) and Bilinski.

universal function, it symbolises rebirth and the triumph of positive over the evil forces.

This conflict of good and evil, interlarded with passages suggesting fear, delight or pain is evident in other Bilinski's works many of which have been made into TV recitals or video clips aired on Polish television. He made a splendid job of Bach's Toccata in D minor, in itself a formidable piece of music, and almost outdid himself in the sound track for a movie called *The Friend of the Jolly Devil*.

It is interesting to note that both Bilinski and Wozniak have been linked with Solidarity (the Polish trade union that won in the last elections) during its early days.

Wozniak became famous as the Solidarity photographer before it was outlawed in 1982. And Bilinski produced video recordings that implied criticism of the authority's repressive measures. Among these is the sound track for *The Little Prince* that was also screened on Monday.

Bilinski's and Wozniak's work is so outstanding that it deserves to be shown to a wider audience. Kuwait's Ministry of Information would do well to buy the production and show it abroad during its promotional campaigns. For not only is it a true face of Kuwait, it is also presented in a most artistic and innovative manner.

Auto-theft on the increase: Mukhled

THE director of the Public Relations Department at the Interior Ministry Fahd Khaled Al Mukhled has said that the failure by car owners to abide by the directions of the ministry authorities is responsible for the increasing rate of auto-theft.

He told a local daily that the nonchalance and indifference shown by car owners made it easy for the car-thieves to go on with their illegal practice.

He said that the police stations at various places always received reports of items stolen from cars. However, he commented that owners fail to recall that what exactly the stolen items are, which reflects the degree of indifference.

He stressed the effective inter-co-operation between police and people in putting an end to this phenomenon. He called on car-owners to a minimum level of attention to help stop this illegal phenomenon. The lack of security awareness is a problem that seems difficult to cope with despite the massive security education campaigns, Mukhled said.

Meanwhile Council of Ministers has reportedly requested the General Traffic Department (GTD) to lay down constraints for the renewal of car registration in the name of the buyer.

The GTD had earlier tabled a proposal recommending the issuance of a decision banning the transfer of ownership for cars sold on instalments. Sale could only be effected after the owner of the car submits a certificate proving that the full price of the car has been paid, or a statement by the seller approving the registration of the car in the name of the buyer.

Visit visa can be changed to public sector permit: Bennai

Visa trading penalties tougher

EXPATRIATES holding visitors' visas can convert it into a work permit only if they are recruited by the public sector, according to Col Nasser Abdul Hadi Al Bennai, director of the Ahmadi Immigration Department.

Commenting on the employment scene of expatriates, he said that it is against the law to recruit any person who is staying illegally in the country, or to employ any individual who is employed by a different sponsor. Violators will face a jail term of maximum of six months or a fine of KD 200 to KD 600, the official said.

On the issue of dependent visas, he said that they are issued to applicants whose salaries are KD 450 if employed in the public sector and KD 600 in the private sector. In this respect, dependent visas are issued to boys

until they attain the age of 21, but girls are offered dependent's visas until they get married. However, those who are students at Kuwait University are given residences which are renewed on a yearly basis until graduation.

Col Bennai said that sponsors who accept payment will be liable to a jail term of one year and a fine of KD 1,000.

Expatriates who retire from the private sector will be given a three-month residence permit on completion of services.

Students studying abroad, or those who are under medical treatment are exempted from the ban imposed on entering the country after six months. However, they have to produce documentary evidence, the official said.

Continuing, he said that there is a plan to set up kiosks for selling stamps at immigration

departments in the five governorates.

The official disclosed that all Kuwait's exits are equipped with special technological systems as also all Kuwaiti embassies abroad. These facilities enable authorities to verify the official data or work permit stamps and related formalities to detect any attempted forgery. He called on those arriving in Kuwait with valid residence visas in an expired passport attached to the new one to contact the relevant immigration department to have the visa transferred on to the new passport.

Arab or foreign women married to Kuwaiti husbands will be given residence visas in the case of divorce or death of their husbands up to a maximum of five years, which can be renewed. Children of such marriages will be Kuwaitis, Col Bennai said.

Last day to register

(Continued from Page 1)

Following are the names of the candidates who registered on the ninth day:

1st constituency — Sharq

Salah Baqer Khairi
Rashed Abdullah Al Sharah
Mbarak Mazyed Al Mutairi
Hamdan Thamer Al Souwyan
Haider Sayed Ismael Moustafawi

2nd constituency — Mirqab

Fahed Naser Al Rougaib
Moustafa Ahmed Al Ayoub

3rd constituency — Qibla

Awad Fahed Al Mutairi

4th constituency — Da'ya

Hassan Ali Omran
Saqr Saleh Al Enezi

5th constituency — Qadisiya

Mbarak Abdullah Abdullah
Hussain Abdullah Al Safar
Saoud Abdulaziz Al Sae'e
Abdul Mohsen Mohamed Al Hussaini

6th constituency — Faiha

Khaled Abdul Aziz Al Rabah

7th constituency — Kaifan

Mohamed Ali Al Bahar
Anwar Abdullah Al Awadi

8th constituency — Hawalli

Fareed Mohamed Omar Serri

9th constituency — Adaliya

Abdulrahman Hussain Al Za'bi
Mashhour Naser Al Naser
Zayed Safaq Al Khashab

10th constituency — Adaliya

Khaled Abdullah Al Shaeji
Abbas Mohamed Ali Wazzan
Mahmoud Ali Haidar
Abdul Thumyan Al Ghanim
Fawzi Bader Al Fouzan
Abdul Aziz Abdullah Al Woqsyian

11th constituency — Khaldiya

Mohamed Hamad Bin Eidan
Fahed Hmoud Al Baz
Hisham Naser Al Abdijaleel
Yousef Jassem Al Fahed

12th constituency — Salmiya

Jan'an Mohamed Al Hraiti

13th constituency — Rumathiya

Abdulla Hassan Kamshad

Saoud Abdul Aziz Al Attar

Faisal Khaled Bou Hamad
Abbas Hussain Al Khadari
Yousef Hamad Al Jidi
Abdul Aziz Shar'e Al Lahon

14th constituency — Abraq Khaifan

Khalaf Saleh Al Barazi

15th constituency — Farwaniya

Hmoud Abdullah Al Qoorafa Al Mutairi

16th constituency — Omariya

Faisal Ibrahim Al Ahmed
Mohamed Rabee' Al Arada
Ayed Naser Al Rasheedi

17th constituency — Juleeb Al Shiyoukh

Nawal Sultan Al Mutairi

18th constituency — Sulabikhat

Saqr Awad Al Rasheedi
Sweedan Arada Al Antari
Abdulla Arbud Al Bathili

19th constituency — New Jahra

Rwashed Saad Al Harbi

20th constituency — Jahra

Zaid Mbarak Al Mutairi

21st constituency — Ahmedi

Jahaz Khaled Al Oraibi
Ahmed Abdul Aziz Al Misfir
Jaber Abdullah Al Krebani
Abdul Rida Al Zankawi

22nd constituency — Riqqa

Mbarak Fahid Al Ajmi
Mohamed Abdullah Al Kandari

23rd constituency — Sabahiya

Hmoud Mhloz Al Kribani
Khaled Mhloz Al Azemi

24th constituency — Fahahel

Saad Dajman Al Azemi
Mahdi Barak Al Azemi
Fahed Abdullah Al Azemi
Hassan Mohamed Al Khalidi
Nabed Naser Al Hajri
Naser Hmoud Al Hajri
Rashed Faris Al Hashar

25th constituency — Umm Al Haiman

Eid Ali Al Azemi
Moutlak Saad Al Azemi
Saoud Naser Al Azemi

Ropme to evaluate cleanup progress

KUWAIT, May 8, (Kuna): Representatives of eight littoral states of the Arabian Gulf and several marine pollution foreign experts began a three-day meeting here today to evaluate progress of plans to clear Gulf waters from wreckage of vessels and other objects sunk during the war between Iraq and Iran.

The meeting, the fourth session of the Marine Pollution Monitoring Committee of the Regional Organisation for Protection of Marine Environment (Ropme) would focus on offers made by several international companies to execute programmes of clearing the Gulf waters from sunk objects.

Ropme groups Kuwait, Iraq, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Iran.

Representatives of a number of sea pollution combatting international firms as well as ecological experts are taking part in the meeting.

Ropme's technical and administrative affairs co-ordinator, Dr Badriya Al Awadi of Kuwait said the meeting will update data and information on location of sunk objects and probe efforts made since the last session to lift them.

She said hazards of the marine environment in the region call for a regional and collective approach to curb them. She further stressed that there was a political desire among Ropme member states to join hands to ensure the success of plans to clear the Gulf waters from any pollution or obstacles that might damage the marine environment.

Airport bribery

(Continued from Page 1)

Allegedly, the "agent" confessed he took a bribe from passengers allowing them to carry baggage on board an Air India flight last Monday. He also alleged an AI "official" was part of the scam. Two passengers who had boarded the flight were also detained for questioning.

For some months, airline circles have been rife with reports regarding the alleged activities of a group of agents who allow passengers to get away with excess baggage without paying for it. They reportedly make contact with passengers on the airport and take a percentage of what should be paid for extra luggage. It has been alleged they split the day's earnings between the agent and his accomplices at the airport.

Sources claim the "agents" operated with the complicity of various airline staff and uniformed officers. And the scam was run mainly on the sub-continent sector. The AI official, who was arrested, had acquired a reputation for strictly discouraging such practices and had lost many friends in the process. He is widely respected in airline circles for his principled stand on such issues.

Sri Lankan embassy

The Embassy of Sri Lanka will remain closed on May 9 and 10, (Wednesday and Thursday) on the occasion of 'Wesak' festival in Sri Lanka.

Co-op union accused of hiking prices

THE chairman of Jahra Co-operative Society Jazza Al Qahs has accused the Union of Co-operative Societies of hiking prices of commodities sold at the co-operative societies. He added that these prices are about 20 per cent more than prices of commodities in local markets and added that the Union increased prices because merchants succeeded in influencing the price committee.

Al Qahs pointed out that he discussed the increase of prices with purchasing committees of his co-operative and asked them to make a comprehensive study to find the reason and source of increases. The

study showed that prices of commodities bought directly by the co-operative from local markets are far less than prices of commodities supplied by the union. He added that the union prices important items and increased prices of some items by reducing weight of their packs and cans and increasing their prices at the same time, such as Egyptian corn oil.

He called on officials of the union to arrange for discussions between him and them on this question. But the dialogue should be public and covered by the local media to allow consumers to know who increased the prices.

UAE, Algeria agree to step up bilateral co-operation

ABU DHABI, May 8, (OPECNA) The United Arab Emirates and Algeria have agreed to boost economic, trade and technical co-operation, including the establishment of a joint investment company.

A statement by the UAE Economy and Commerce Ministry, issued after a meeting of the

two countries' joint committee here today, said that the investment concern would be 51 per cent controlled by the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development while the Algerian local development bank would hold the remaining shares.

The ministry said that both sides had reviewed trade

activities and had agreed to expand ties through exhibitions, exchange visits and increased co-operation between their respective chambers of commerce and industry.

It was also agreed to boost relations in education, youth activities, sports and the rehabilitation of the handicapped.

UAE Economy and Commerce Minister Saif Al Jarwan expressed happiness at the outcome of the meeting, stating that "this important accomplishment embodies the spirit of co-operation and understanding that prevailed during their talks."

Algerian Economy Minister

Ghazi Hidouci said at the end of his three-day visit that he was happy about the results of the meeting and affirmed his commitment to put them into action. He also confirmed his country's attendance at the Abu Dhabi international exhibition which is due to be held in January 1991.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

OF ALL the things you wear, your expression is the most important — John Ruskin, English writer-art critic (1819-1900).

Romanian reforms

Generation gap proves obstacle

BUCHAREST. (Reuters) Romania's attempts to switch smoothly from tyranny to democracy have hit the generation gap, with young people claiming the revolution was hijacked by neo-communists and the over-40s settling for what they've got.

Nowhere is this more clearly illustrated than in Bucharest's University Square, where a marathon anti-government demonstration entered its 13th day on Friday.

The protesters, many of whom faced the machine-guns of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu's security forces last December, are mostly in their 20s and have lost none of their revolutionary fervour in the past four months.

Their enemy is new communism and their main target is President Ion Iliescu, who has headed a hastily-assembled National Salvation Front (NSF) government since Ceausescu's overthrow and execution on Christmas Day.

Lead

Iliescu, a former communist official who was sacked by Ceausescu 15 years ago for dissent, is virtually certain to lead his NSF party to a victory on May 20 in Romania's first free elections.

An opinion poll published on Friday said two-thirds of the electorate favoured the NSF. Its nearest rival, the Peasants' Party, was backed by one-eighth. Iliescu himself had a 79 per cent rating as the most popular choice for president.

The poll, taken from a sample of just under 1,000 electors, was conducted by an independent organisation of sociologists and demographers.

The University Square demonstrations, whose numbers regularly rise from a few hundred in the morning to several thousand by nightfall, know their presence will have little effect on the outcome of the elections.

"We know the elections are a foregone conclusion but we have to keep up the protest because otherwise we will be giving the revolution away," said a 22-year-old medical student.

"When we were out on the streets last December we were not fighting for someone like Iliescu, a neo-communist."

Postponed

The protesters want the elections to be postponed to give opposition parties more time to organise. But, according to the opinion poll, this is a minority view among Romania's 23 million people.

Only three per cent of those questioned said the elections should be put back, while 88 per cent said May 20 should be kept as polling day. The others were undecided.

The demonstrators are also angry that the NSF, initially formed as an interim body to steer the country to democracy, declared itself a political party and is contesting the elections.

One, demonstrator, a 27-year-old graduate engineer, said: "Obviously someone had to run the country after the revolution and we were content for Iliescu to do this on a temporary basis. Now he has abused that position for his own ends and we will have another communist controlling our lives."

He added: "When you have steered a nation out of revolution you are in a position of great strength with the electorate. We are deeply suspicious of anyone who would play that trick."

This view is generally not shared by those who lived all, or most, of their lives under Ceausescu and his hardline communist predecessors. "I know of few people over the age of 40 who do not believe that life in Romania is now 100 per cent better than it was under Ceausescu," said a 63-year-old professional man who spent five years in a labour camp in the 1960s on trumped up charges of dissent.

Understand

"The older generations cannot understand why the young fought for democracy and only months later are fighting against free elections. It is imperative for stability that we have peaceful elections and give whoever is elected a chance."

Iliescu, who describes the protesters as vagabonds and believes they will eventually become bored and go away, is nevertheless irritated by the demonstration, which has blocked one of Bucharest's main thoroughfares for almost two weeks.

Some of the more hawkish members of the provisional government are known to have urged the use of police to disperse the protesters.

But Iliescu and his right-hand man, Prime Minister Petre Roman, have counselled against the use of force, knowing that it would be seized upon by the opposition as proof that the country is in the grip of another dictatorship.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1573 — Henry, Duke of Anjou, is elected king of Poland.

1688 — Holy Roman Emperor Leopold I signs treaty with Transylvania by which Turkish Suzerainty is removed, and Transylvania becomes a province of the king of Hungary.

1738 — Britain reinforces Mediterranean fleet to patrol coast of southern Spain and sends additional ships to West Indies.

1788 — Britain passes parliamentary motion for abolishing slave trade.

1926 — US Navy Commander Richard E. Byrd and Floyd Bennett become first men to make airplane flight over North Pole.

1933 — In Berlin, 25,000 books are thrown into bonfire in first of Nazi book-burnings.

1936 — Italy annexes Ethiopia, and King Victor Emmanuel is proclaimed emperor.

1944 — Soviet forces liberate Sevastopol in the Crimea in World War II.

1946 — Italy's King Victor Emmanuel III abdicates and Umberto II proclaims himself king.

1955 — West Germany is admitted as a member of Nato.

1967 — India's vice-president Zakir Hussain is named president of India, becoming first Muslim to hold that office.

1968 — US and North Vietnamese negotiators assemble in Paris for preliminary Vietnam peace talks.

1972 — United Nations report says world no longer has enough grain reserves for buffer against major crop failures.

1976 — Bullet-riddled body of Italy's former prime minister Aldo Moro is found in parked car in central Rome, 54 days after his abduction.

1987 — Polish jetliner bound for New York crashes into forest outside Warsaw, killing all 183 people aboard.

1989 — Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) officially requests membership in Unesco (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).

Learning from the blockade

Lithuania under Soviet 'siege'

VILNIUS, Lithuania, USSR, (UPI): "Excuse the fumes," Andrus told journalists riding in his car. "I have just brought back 100 litres of gas from Byelorussia."

Byelorussian gasoline from the neighbouring republic is also sold on the black market right in Vilnius at 1 to 1.5 roubles (\$1.60 to \$2.40) a litre — some four times the official price of 40 kopecks a litre.

"This is a good lesson for Lithuania in market economics," Sajudis Nationalist Movement official Andrus Kubilius said. "I find nothing illegal in it."

In the second week of fuel embargo by Moscow to make Lithuania revoke its independence declaration of March 11, the upstart republic was still doing things its own way.

Besieged

Its parliament chose Vytautas Landsbergis, a slight former music professor and the godfather of Sajudis, to be president over the broad-shouldered, photogenic communist leader Algirdas Brazauskas.

Landsbergis has been so besieged with requests for interviews that one night he locked the office doors — and played chopin on the piano, witnesses reported.

The musicologist has also elevated Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, which he calls "a symphony of freedom and victory against slavery, insidiousness and darkest hatred," to the status of Lithuania's unofficial anthem.

On a recent Sunday, the republic's national philharmonic played Beethoven's entire Ninth Symphony in Vilnius Cathedral Square. Its strains also resounded through squares and parks in other Lithuanian cities while thousands of Lithuanians pedalled past on bikes to conserve fuel.

The republic, which desperately craves Western attention, has also bridged the language gap in a unique manner. Rather than locals, young Lithuanian Americans manage the government's information service, arranging press conferences, answering phones and generally making life easier for foreign reporters.

Diverted from educational exchange programmes, the Lithuanian Americans are trying to bring about their parent's dream of a reborn independent Lithuania.

Yet despite its declaration of independence, not one nation has recognised Lithuania as the independent nation it was before the Soviet Union annexed it in 1940.

Nor have Western nations offered to sell it oil to break the Soviet fuel embargo, referring the republic to private companies who want dollars it doesn't have.

Even Byelorussia, whose residents are glad to take roubles for the oil they ferry to Lithuania, has served notice that present-day Lithuania contains several regions that belonged to Byelorussia before 1940 and it wants them back.

Surreality

But in obstinate surreality, some bookshop windows display coats of arms of Lithuanian royalty during the "greater Lithuanian" kingdom of the 14th century. At that time Lithuania, then linked to Poland in dynastic marriage, controlled present-day Byelorussia and the Ukraine in a realm stretching from the Baltic to the Black Sea.

Moscow also has reminded Lithuania that its present-day capital Vilnius and the port of Kleipeda were not part of the republic when Josef Stalin annexed it in 1940. Vilnius had been part of Poland and Kleipeda, formerly Memel, had been part of East Prussia.

But Lithuanians spoken to in Vilnius brushed off both Soviet arguments that the declaration was either rash or premature and fears that they may lose territory in a settlement.

"The declaration was made just at the right time," said Yarus, a 58-year-old engineer.

Algirdas, 26, also an engineer, voiced a common theme about the impossibility of revoking independence.

"When a child is born, can you constitutionally declare that it was not born?" he asked, waiting in line for an ice cream. "Maybe Landsbergis could be a bit more diplomatic though."

Kubilius, the official at Sajudis, cut short any talk about annulling the declaration as a way to start talks with Moscow. "If I am 38 years old, can someone declare me 26?" he said.

Andrus, the red-headed, lanky motorist who transported his fuel from Byelorussia, said, "Everyone wants independence. Me? Well, my parents were sent away for 15 years to Siberia."

After annexing the three Baltic states in 1940, Stalin deported about 500,000 natives on charges of nationalism, exiling them to Siberian work camps.

In their stead came Russian workers, and today those ethnic Russians and their children face an uncertain future as the Baltic states drive to independence.

"Where do I go?" said a Russian store clerk. "I

have been here for 38 years, and all my relatives are here. I speak the language (Lithuanian). You see I can't talk about it without getting agitated."

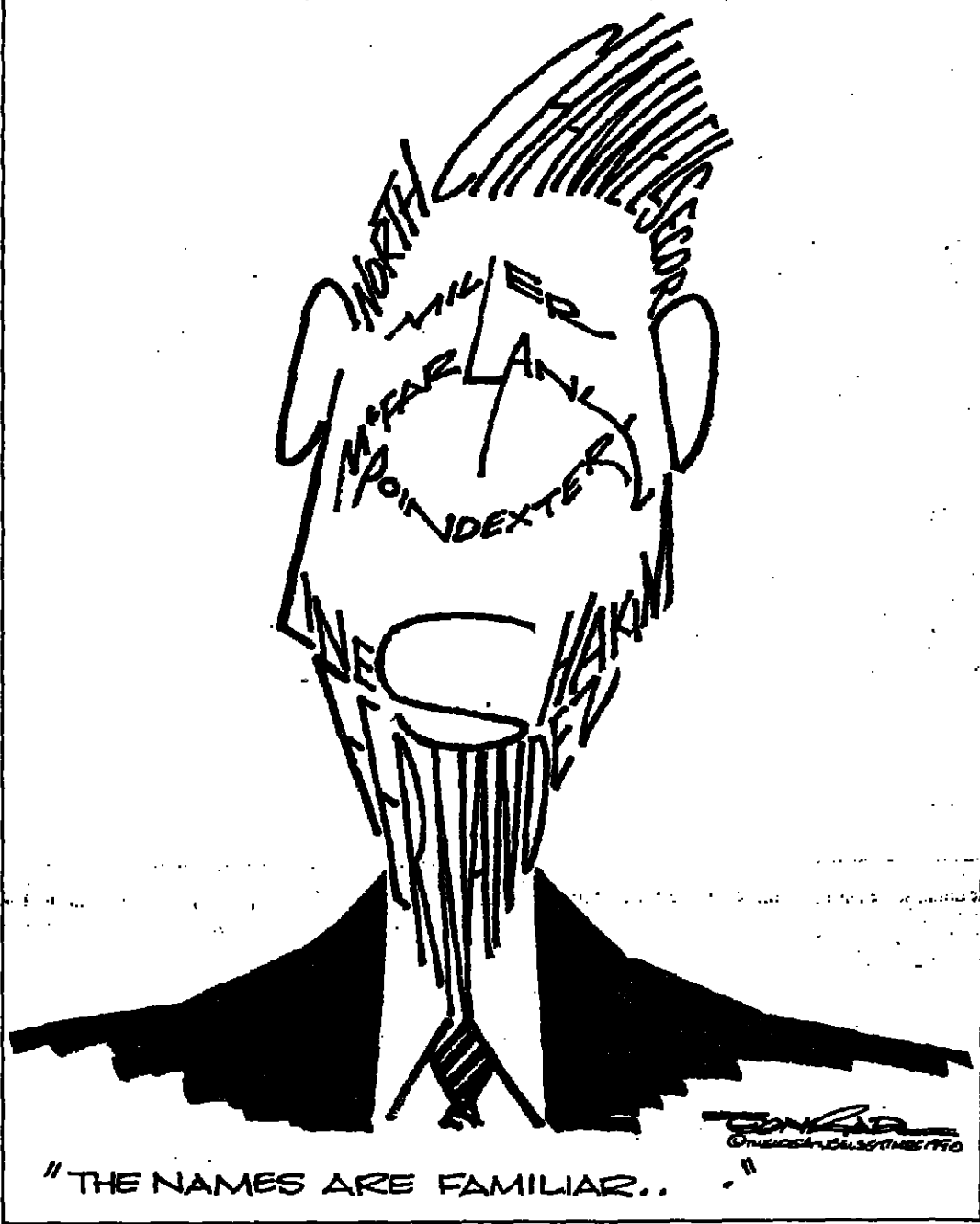
Movements

"All this started from the Baltics," she said of the spreading secessionist and nationalist movements that suddenly make the Russians feel threatened in all the non-Russian republics.

Lithuania has 300,000 ethnic Russians, or about 9 per cent of the population, but Latvia's ethnic Russian population is 33 per cent and Estonia's 27 per cent.

Still, home is home. A recent poll showed 45 per cent of ethnic Russians would vote for Latvian independence and remain there. Observers in Vilnius predict a high percentage of Russians there would also favour sovereignty for Lithuania and not return to the "mainland" of Russia.

Motorists are restricted to 7 gallons (26 litres) a month, fewer cars are on the streets, lines are visible at gasoline stations, and shoppers are stocking up on flour, rice and sugar — all of which the republic imports.



Letters to the editor

Religious tolerance

SIR: I refer to Leslie Atkinson's letter, "Conflicting theories" dated April 26, 1990.

Atkinson reminds Muslims of their rights in France where the mosques are bulldozed while Muslims are praying inside, pork is thrown inside the mosque, stones are thrown at praying Muslims, standing inside the mosque.

All this in a so-called highly civilised country. May I remind Atkinson that France is one of those countries where the azan (call to prayer) is not allowed on loudspeakers. Say no more of the democratic rights.

Talking of the rights of Christians in a Muslim country, he should know that Christians are democratically allowed to practice their rites and rituals, except, openly drinking liquor, open lewdness and obscenity.

You, Atkinson, are enjoying the freedom of expression because, you are living in a country, where a tolerant religion is practised by its people.

Sultan Ahmad Ali, Sahmya.

Human value

SIR: The widely reported item last news which dominated the newspapers was the Nelson Mandela rock spectacular in London. I was privileged to attend the show of harmony and hope: it was inspirational to hear the speech of Nelson Mandela.

After what Nelson Mandela has gone through, one can but only appreciate his compassion and vision. With 27 years in prison, he spoke of a society where everyone joins to fight against evil of apartheid and all may live like brothers whatever the race, creed or colour may be. He clearly declared that he does not hate South African whites and raised the hopes of every body that there is finally light at the end of a dark tunnel.

Neil Kinnock, Labour Party leader, also attended the Wembley gala and was one of the 75,000 paying participants. The Conservative-controlled British press took a special note of Kinnock's raised clenched fist salute at the Mandela concert and made every effort to make this gesture of a caring politician look nasty and sinister conveniently overlooking a similar gesture of solidarity by Conservative Sir Geoffrey Howe in Mozambique (two years back).

On the one hand where there was message of hope, glory and harmony by leaders like Nelson Mandela and concerned politicians like Neil Kinnock, on the same day, in contrast were the remarks of Norman Tebbit, Conservative Party leader, in the Commons, where debating on the bill to grant British citizenship to Hong Kong families, he raised a point that the British ethnic communities had still not properly absorbed into British society. He lashed out at the ethnic communities' extremist attitudes and condemned them for their contempt of English law.

Issue

The issue in Commons was not the only place where Norman Tebbit raised his objections on ethnic communities in Britain. A day earlier, in an interview with Los Angeles Times, Tebbit made the same point by suggesting what he called "Cricket Test-test" for the

Asian immigrant communities. In his own words, he addressed the Asians, why immigrant Asians in Britain cheer for Pakistan, India or Sri Lanka instead of Britain? Are they still harking back to where they come from or where they are?

He thought this to be a great problem. I think these comments are highly inflammatory and racial. When he talked of Pakistan or other Asians living in Britain failing the Cricket Test for not supporting the English team, what was plain humour for him was rather in bad taste because when a nation starts using culture and sports as a yardstick to judge the amalgamation of minorities then what comes out is a sort of anarchy and Nazism.

Spurs loyalties do not necessarily mean that the communities have not amalgamated into the society. It's rather unity in diversity. Only closed minds and empire-builders can start application of such tests where men are not men but instruments. We should not hate some people and thoughts when we don't know them; such condemnation of thought process and people leads to perpetual vicious cycle of hatred.

Tebbit was the biggest loser. He threw in the towel for the leadership bid of the Conservatives and it was already dead by the end of the week because his lurid language frightened the potential Conservative supporters. Even Los Angeles Times confessed that they were amazed when further on in the interview Tebbit commented that he would be sorry to see the United States become a less Anglo-Saxon country, a less European country.

The pontification of Tebbit is not required for America. US is built for immigration. Many economists in America agree that increased immigration would raise America's standard of living. America is a nation of immigrants and they are a blessing. George Borjas, an economist of University of California at Santa Barbara and a leading expert on economics of immigration, has demolished completely the hourly myth that immigrants take unfairly jobs from US citizens. His recently compiled studies have uncovered that not a single shred of evidence is suggestive of competition from immigrants hurting the natives.

Another economist, Julian Simmonds, has suggested that immigrants of every class and skill invigorate the economy. 27 leading economists, including the past members of President's council of economic advisors, have suggested that increased immigration will raise the US standard of living.

Evidence

The economic evidence is in variance with what Tebbit has to say. The last thing United States needs is a lecture on matters of immigration from a Member of the Parliament from Chingford. After 22 years of Santa Barbara and a leading expert on economics of immigration, has demolished completely the hourly myth that immigrants take unfairly jobs from US citizens. His recently compiled studies have uncovered that not a single shred of evidence is suggestive of competition from immigrants hurting the natives.

unwise allegations make millions of friends for the alleged.

Tebbit should realise that the era where the rule was that injustice lasting for centuries existing among millions of people and covering thousands of square miles of territory is an accomplished fact and not injustice is over. People cherish their freedom and there has been no greater loss and destruction of human society singularly other than by factors of intolerance.

Cricket is about patience, tolerance, gentlemanly conduct and fair play. Tebbit, for your kind information, racism runs counter to the spirit of cricket; it breeds intolerance and unfair tactics. I am sure that the vast majority of the British immigrant community will certainly qualify the so-called Cricket Test-test.

Iqbal Latif, Kuwait.

Cover subcontinent

SIR: A very substantial number of expatriates from the sub-continent reside and work in Kuwait. If a head count were to be taken, citizens of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka would, hands down, outnumber expatriates from other areas such as N. America, Europe or Latin America.

Your news coverage, though bountiful, continues to neglect demographic realities in Kuwait.

For instance, large number of your readers are Goan — many of whom are reasonably well-educated. The community is 35-40,000 strong, and the Arab Times appears to be its newspaper of choice.

The recent momentous political developments in Goa as a case in point have, surprisingly, been completely ignored by your newspaper — I refer to the unprecedented epoch-making activities of Churchill Alemam, Dr Luis Proto Barbosa and others like them.

Developments in Kerala, too, often go unnoticed even though the community is over a hundred thousand strong!!

If I, I feel, mainly by tapping this section of the market that you can increase your circulation and influence.

I would request you therefore, to appoint without delay, foreign correspondents in Panaji and Trivandrum to telegraph news to you as it unfolds. The cost to you — a few dinars — would be insignificant in proportion to the incalculable element of fresh air it would inject into your news coverage.

Another gripe of sorts is the fine type-face you have predilection for using. While undoubtedly enabling you to squeeze in more news, the effect on the reader is counterproductive, one's eyes being the main casualty. The time factor in Kuwait limits one's desire for avid reading, except for the weekends where one has more leisure.

Nivek Ajee, Safat.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Gibraltar Colony fears about being left behind

GIBRALTAR. (Reuters) Europe's last colony is worried about getting left behind in a continent whose political map is changing fast.

The tiny British colony of Gibraltar, occupying 2.75 square miles (7.1 square km) on the southern tip of Spain, is becoming an anachronism despite its strategic location. It is also fighting a reputation as a haven for dubious business deals — allegations which it denies.

Spain's Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez complained recently that Gibraltar was a cancer on the continent and warned "there cannot be a common house with a colony in Europe."

Ceded by Spain in 1713, the Rock of Gibraltar lost its military value after 1945, and Britain's decision to cut the 1,800-man garrison by 700 next year will make a big dent in the service-oriented economy.

Mandate

Chief Minister Joe Bossano is aware his mandate ends in 1992, the same year Europe becomes a single market, and that he has little time to prepare it for the new competitive era. "We have to bring Gibraltar up to the standards of the rest of Western Europe," Bossano, a former building worker with a degree in economics, said in a recent interview.

Since he was elected in a landslide victory two years ago Bossano has begun an ambitious development programme he hopes will help project Gibraltar as a trading and financial centre for Europe. His efforts have helped deposits triple since 1988.

The socialist leader has tightened financial legislation following a scandal in Gibraltar two years ago, and is shaking up the rock's sleepy civil service by halving the highest-paid jobs and closing down departments.

Another priority, he says, will be to clean up Gibraltar's rather seedy appearance, a situation that puts off visitors and has sparked a campaign by a local heritage trust to try to improve public awareness about the environment.

Resembles

Gibraltar at times resembles a bazaar, a strange jumble of Moroccans, Spaniards and British expatriates along streets that could have been plucked from an English provincial town.

Bossano, himself of Spanish extraction, is a fierce defender of Gibraltar's status quo, and says he will not give up one inch of it despite talks between Madrid and London that began in 1985.

Britain says it will not give up the colony against the wishes of its citizens, and no local politician dares to suggest any kind of agreement with Spain.

"On the few occasions that an understanding with Spain has been suggested public reaction has been violent," said Louis Triay, a prominent Gibraltar lawyer.

Gibraltar's associate membership of the European Economic Community has not smoothed relations with Spain. If anything it has just made life more complicated for Brussels.

The territorial dispute held up an EEC accord on liberalising air traffic for six months in 1987 as Spain did not recognise Gibraltar as a British airport. The impasse was resolved only when Britain and Spain agreed joint use of the airport.

Bossano has nonetheless blocked the accord, even though it could lead to Spanish investment in airport expansion, seeing it as a first step to losing sovereignty.

"I am in the business of stopping Spain from taking Gibraltar," he said.

Links

He would like to expand the airport to open links with Berlin and other European centres but Gibraltar is currently excluded from the EEC air transport agreement, a ruling he is disputing in the EEC courts.

Airport expansion would attract much-needed capital, a goal made harder by Spanish allegations of drugs smuggling, money laundering and cigarettes contraband, which Gibraltarians see as an attempt to discredit the Rock as a viable community.

Officials here admit contraband in cigarettes is blatant and say an estimated \$400,000 worth a day are smuggled into Spain.

Drugs smuggling directly through the Rock is relatively small, but Spanish officials complain that Gibraltar-registered speedboats are used to transport large quantities of hashish from Morocco to the Costa del Sol.

Drugs and money laundering loomed large in the last round of talks between Britain and Spain in Madrid last February, causing officials to raise a spirited defence of the Rock.

"We have investigated about 30 cases of financial wrongdoing alleged in the Spanish press and haven't found any evidence yet," said Bossano.

British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd said then his Spanish counterpart had produced no firm evidence to back allegations of shady dealings, but did agree to include Gibraltar in an anti-drugs agreement signed with Spain last year.

QUOTE ME

"The firing is directed to the south in the region where no other vessels can be endangered while the Israeli boat is positioned in the centre of the gulf in Israeli waters. Israeli naval units have been long-standing and clear orders regarding rules of conduct during the passage of King Hussein's yacht... and in the incident noted, the Israeli naval vessel acted in accordance with these instructions. An Israeli naval statement refuting claims Israel fired at King Hussein's yacht."

"We hope that the Muslims will be able to take the steps that will force global arrogance (the United States) to give in to the rights of the oppressed." — A Hezbollah official saying the US responded to the hostage release with arrogance.

"They are heading into a blind alley. Jumping out of the frying pan into the fire." — Albanian communist leader Ramiz Alia scoffing at reforms in East Europe.

"In terms of the way people feel, inclusion of a united Germany in Nato is something people don't like and which some have very strong feelings about." — A Kremlin official conveying the sentiments of the Soviet people.

BUSINESS & FINANCE



Unofficial trading
Street traders in shares outside the Istanbul stock exchange. Although shares are traded on the floor of the exchange, unofficial trading takes place outside for cash. (Reuters wirephoto)

\$60b IMF aid for Third World, East

Rich, poor talks end in 50pc increase

WASHINGTON, May 8. (Agencies) Rich and poor nations ended more than two years of often tortuous negotiations today by selling a \$60-billion deal to help promote democracy in Eastern Europe and economic reforms in the Third World.

In a complex communiqué reached after talks lasting into the early morning, the International Monetary Fund said it had won support for a 50 per cent rise in the money it will have available for coping with its "heavy workload" of promoting global economic development in the 1990s.

The debate between the rich and poor over economic development now switches to a joint committee of the World Bank and the IMF, where the Third World is expected to press for a stronger strategy for attacking the debt crisis.

US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady signalled that Washington opposes any changes in the strategy now, arguing that it was working well in reducing the Third World's \$1.3-trillion mountain of debt.

Promise
"Debtor countries are already gaining benefits," Brady told the joint development committee today.

In the deal on the IMF's resources, developing countries had to take a smaller increase than they wanted despite fears that the Third World will be ignored over Eastern Europe.

But in return they wrestled a promise from the industrial world that the IMF will review its finances again by 1993, or earlier if necessary.

"We will discharge our new responsibilities but not at the expense of other parts of the membership," IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus said, seeking to ease Third World fears of being crowded out by demands from Eastern Europe.

Monetary officials said that the negotiations almost broke down last night over a controversial US proposal to revoke the voting rights of member nations who consistently refuse to pay off their debts to the fund.

Eleven developing countries, including Sudan, Zambia and Vietnam, are currently behind on their payments to the fund to the tune of more than \$4 billion.

Clause
Despite the objections of the developing world, the interim committee agreed to link approval of the so-called suspension clause to enactment of the increase in the IMF's capital.

The Bush administration had argued that such a link was necessary if it was to have a chance of convincing the US Congress to put up money for the IMF capital increase at a time of tight budgets in the United States.

Representatives of some developing nations had to check with their governments late yesterday to get acceptance of Washington's contentious proposal which would require an 85 per cent vote by the fund's members for approval.

IMF officials emphasised that a member country would only be suspended as a last resort and said that 10 of the 11 developing countries in areas — the only exception was Cambodia — were already working to clear up their lax payments.

Complex
Industrial nations cleared the way for the accord on Sunday by setting aside their internal squabbles over their voting power at the fund.

The new shape of the fund for the 1990s sees the United States remaining in the top spot, but with Japan moving up from fifth place to a joint second with West Germany in recognition of Tokyo's growing economic might.

Britain and France agreed to share the next spot.

While the negotiations have been complex and sometimes numbingly technical, their resolution will provide the IMF with financing to deal with the festering \$1.3-trillion debt crisis and the emergence of Eastern Europe as a market-based economy over the next few years.

"The package... is designed to strengthen the role of the International Monetary Fund as the central pillar of the international financial system," Michael Wilson, chairman of the IMF's policy-making interim committee, said.

Both rich and poor nations compromised over a deal that had a little bit of something for everyone.

"Each country had to take a little water with its wine to come to an agreement," said Wilson, Canada's finance minister.

IMF set to crown Japan's ascent

WASHINGTON, May 8. (Reuters) The International Monetary Fund is set to recognize Japan as the world's second most powerful economy, but Tokyo has seen its achievement overshadowed by the historic emergence of democracy in Eastern Europe.

Economic policy-makers were working on an intricate deal last night that would increase the IMF's resources by \$60 billion and give Japan the number two spot at the fund, behind the United States. Tokyo currently ranks fifth.

Tokyo has long argued for a greater say in running the IMF, the international organisation responsible for policing the world economy, commensurate with its economic strength.

But its long-sought victory has proven somewhat bittersweet, because at the last minute it found it had to share the second position with West Germany. France and Britain will share the next rank.

Japanese officials acknowledge many of Tokyo's critics, including worries about the weakness of the yen — have been relegated to the background during a series of international meetings that end here today.

"We spent little time on the discussion of exchange rates, and the G-7 meeting dwelt mostly on developments in Eastern Europe and the IMF's capital resources," said Yasushi Mieno, head of Japan's Central Bank, after a meeting of the powerful Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations on Sunday.

Tokyo is worried that the weak yen — it has fallen some 10 per cent since the start of the year — will push up inflation in Japan and hamper efforts to cut its troublesome trade surplus.

The G-7 — which groups Japan with Britain, Canada, France, Italy, the United States and West Germany — paid up services to those concerned in its communiqué, but refrained from doing anything to remedy them.

"The G-7 agreed to no specific measures to push up the yen," Mieno said.

Persistent weakness of the yen dominated the previous G-7 meeting in Paris on April 7.

Polish-style shock best IMF conclusion

WASHINGTON, May 8. (Reuters) The International Monetary Fund, stepping up help for the new democracies of Eastern Europe, is rapidly coming to the conclusion that the best approach to economic reform is Polish-style shock treatment.

IMF economists stress that there can be no single textbook approach to help Eastern European nations shrug off four decades of communist central planning and make the transition to Western-style free markets.

But they say on balance that the ambitious shock treatment now being tried by Poland — an experiment being watched intensely by all its East European neighbours — appears to be working better than a more gradualist approach.

"I am always sceptical of recipes to be applied to all countries," one senior IMF official dealing with Eastern Europe told journalists.

"But at the same time you have to recognise there are obvious advantages to the shock treatment approach... the more ambitious approach is the one that should be favoured."

Poland, Hungary and Romania plus Yugoslavia — always keen to avoid being classified as an East bloc state — are fund members while Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria have applied to join following last year's collapse of communist rule that swept through Eastern Europe.

The fund estimates in its latest world economic outlook that output in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union could fall by 1-1.2 to two per cent this year.

But while all of the economies have been dragged down by cen-

Sofia, Berlin, EEC sign pact

BRUSSELS, May 8. (AP) The European Economic Community signed accords with East Germany and Bulgaria today, completing the first stage of a bid to boost trade and economic links across a once-divided continent.

The 12-nation EEC already has signed trade and economic co-operation pacts with the Soviet Union, Hungary and Poland.

Yesterday, it signed an agreement with Czechoslovakia, leaving Romania the only East European nation that has taken steps toward democracy and free enterprise but does not yet have an accord with the EEC.

Negotiations to replace a suspended 1980 pact with Romania are expected to open soon, although EEC officials privately question Romania's commitment to democracy and economic reforms.

The 10-year accords with Eastern Europe provide for economic co-operation in many sectors, from farming to the environment. They also ease curbs on imports of East European goods and are aimed at raising two-way trade across the continent.

Currently, that trade totals only \$50 billion a year, half of it between the EEC and the Soviet Union.

On April 28, the EEC said it was ready to start a second stage of economic relations with Eastern Europe; talks for association accords that also cover political consultations.

Eager
Some East European nations are eager to become full EEC members as quickly as possible. Czechoslovakia, for example, has said it wants to join by 1999.

But the EEC, citing dramatic differences in economic development, has ruled out full membership for any East European nation except East Germany, which will join after merging with West Germany.

The 10-year EEC-East German accord on trade and economic co-operation signed today is thus a formality. It will be changed once the two Germans create an economic and monetary union and will disappear with formal unification.

Until then, Irish Foreign Minister Gerard Collins said, "this trade and economic co-operation agreement will help to bring the two parties closer together."

Collins, whose country holds the EEC's rotating presidency, signed the East German and Bulgarian accords on behalf of the EEC at two separate ceremonies.

Economics Minister Gerhard Pohl signed for East Germany, and Bulgarian Prime Minister Andrei Loukanov signed for his country.

Dollar rises against yen

Tokyo stocks close firm

LONDON, May 8. (AP) The dollar gained slightly against the Japanese yen today but declined against the West German mark.

Gold prices edged higher. In Tokyo, the dollar closed at 158.05 yen, up 0.25 yen from yesterday's close of 157.80 yen. The dollar had fallen 1.38 yen in the three previous trading days.

Later in London, the dollar was quoted at 157.85 yen.

"Yen-dollar trading was quiet as market participants are awaiting the start of the US treasury bond auction tonight," said Mamoru Tabata, a currency dealer with Mitani Taiyo Sekai Bank.

"The dollar stayed in an extremely narrow range."

Massumi Koyama, chief customer dealer at Bank of Tokyo, said there was not much interest in yen-dollar deals among either buyers or sellers.

Trading against European currencies occupied center stage, he said.

"Cross-trading against the (West German) mark, Swiss franc and even the sterling pound will continue" overnight, Koyama said. If the dollar weakens against those currencies, it will advance no further than the lower 159-yen range against the yen, he predicted.

Other dollar rates in Europe, compared with late yesterday.

In London, the pound sterling was quoted at \$1.6735 today, compared with \$1.6710 in European trading late yesterday. London markets were closed yesterday for a national bank holiday.

Tokyo stock prices closed slightly higher in heavy trading today, with investors optimistic that the index would stay above the 30,000-point level, while the dollar ended barely changed.

The key 225-share Nikkei index closed up 14.31 points or 0.05 per cent to 30,970.58, despite fears there would be selling after it surged 782.63 points yesterday.

"I think the market is looking a lot healthier considering how much we went up yesterday," said Brad Bauer, broker at Barclays de Zoete Wedd Securities Japan. "We're not about to race forward to an all-time high, but the worst is behind us."

About 750 million shares changed hands, the highest since April 9, against 600 million traded yesterday. The Nikkei fluctuated in a range of about 300 points, exceeding 31,000 briefly in late morning trade.

"The target of 31,000, at which point the market will have recovered

both countries.

Algeria is in the throes of economic reform designed to end central planning and make its giant state sector responsive to market forces.

Part of the reform is a new law on money and credit that for the first time authorises joint ventures with foreign partners in which the Algerian side has a minority share.

Burdened by a huge foreign debt of \$24 billion, Algeria suffers a severe hard currency shortage that has crippled industry and blocked new development projects needed for economic revival.

Oapec council reviews progress of data bank

KUWAIT, May 8. (Kuna) Oapec's ministerial council discussed here today progress of work on the organisation's data bank, and asked the general secretariat to pursue contacts with Algeria to update the economic feasibility study on a drydock project in Algeria.

An Oapec release said that the 44th meeting of the organisation, held under chairmanship of Egyptian representative Dr Hussein Abdullah, had welcomed the new Secretary-General Abdul Aziz Al Abdullah Al Turki wishing him success.

The council, meeting at the ministerial level, monitored Arab and international developments related to environment protection and preparations for the

fifth Arab energy conference.

The council expressed appreciation for the efforts exerted by the general secretariat to promote international relations.

It considered reports on the organisation's contacts and joint activities with the European Economic Community and Norway, on the symposiums in which the general secretariat recently participated, and on other topics such as the economic aspects of oil imports in the industrial countries.

The council ratified the final accounts for 1989 of the general secretariat, the judicial tribunal, and the Arab Petroleum Training Institute.

See also Page 14

Bombay shares

Bombay Stock Exchange prices (Rs) May 8, '90			
	Fr. Cl	Open	Close
ACC	440	445	454
Alem Chem	—	—	—
Alw Nis	—	—	—
Ari Fab	—	—	—
Ashok Ley	89.50	89	89
Asia Paint	23.75	235	233.75
Atlas Cop	37	36	37
Auto Corp	67.50	66.25	68.75
Nat Index	418.76	—	428.9
Bajaj Auto	455	452.50	447.50
Bar Rayon	850	842.50	852.50
Blow Plast	—	—	—
Bom Dye	206.15	207.50	213
BK Bond	75	114	115
Burr Wel	3450	3470	35
Canshare	—	—	—
Cen Bank	3450	3475	36.50
Cen Sps	3190	3180	3195
Tata Oil	135	140	140
Tata Chem	121	120	121
Tata Pow	450	450	452.50
Telco	151.50	150	148.50
Thappa Agro	—	—	—
Tisco	117.25	117	117.75
Vam Org	135	136.25	135
Varell	—	—	—
Volias	—	—	—
Wimco	17.50	17	17.50
Zenith	50	—	—
Zuari Agro	55	52.50	56

Tokyo shares

Nikkei stock average: 30970.58 (+14.31)	
Volume: 750 mil shs	
Yen exchange rate: 158.05	
Name of stock	
Advantest Corp.	3270
Ajinomoto	2080
Alps Elec.	2020
Amada	1630
Asahi Chem Ind	1898
Asahi Glass	1800
C. Itoh Co.	866
Canon Inc.	1760
Casio Comp	1610
Dai Nippon Printing	1940
Daiichi Sanyaku	2560
Damppren Pl	2610
Daiichi Corp	1730
Eisai	1840
Fanuc Ltd.	7080
Fuji Photo	4170
Fujitsu Ltd.	1490
Hitachi Credit	1490
Hitachi Koki	2180
Hitachi Ltd.	1610
Hitachi Metal	1480
Honda Motor	1800
Ito Yokado Co.	4070
Kajima Corp	1750
TDK Corp.	6730
Tokio Marine & Fire	1550
Tokyo Elec Power	4280
Tokyo Electron Ltd	3910
Topyan Printing	1880
Tony Ind Inc.	856
Toshiba Corp	1070
Toyota Motor	2430
Yaskawa Elec	1020

EXCHANGE RATES

Indian rupee	16.980
Sri Lanka rupee	7.390
Pakistani rupee	13.470
Bangladesh taka	8.490
US dollar	232.75
Pound sterling	0.7568
UAE dirham	1.7720
Deutsche mark	0.01860
Japanese yen	—

Record rise in Third World inflation

Consumer prices rose 86.3pc in 1989

WASHINGTON, May 8. (AP): Consumer prices rose a record 86.3 per cent in Third World countries last year, spurred by a 350 per cent rise in Latin America, the International Monetary Fund reported yesterday.

Among 22 industrial countries the rise was only 4.3 per cent, up from the 3.4 per cent of 1988. The increases ranged from 1.1 per cent in the Netherlands to 20.8 per cent in Iceland. Japan had 2.3 per cent and West Germany 2.8 per cent.

The United States, the world's largest economy, was a little above the average at 4.8 per cent.

The fund gets figures from its member countries but calculates on its own basis to make them comparable, so that rates for individual countries sometimes differ from those published by governments themselves.

Latin American average prices were heavily increased by runaway inflation in two

of the area's most important countries: Argentina 3,079 per cent and Brazil 1,287 per cent. The mean Argentine housewives were paying roughly 30 times more for the same basket of goods at the end of 1989 than at the beginning of the year.

Peru had an even higher rate: 3,398 per cent.

Mexico, which has a strict austerity programme, dropped to 20 per cent from 114 per cent in 1988.

The fund classifies 130 of its members as "developing countries," including those in Eastern Europe. The Soviet Union does not belong and the fund gives no figures for it.

For its seven European members outside the industrial group, the inflation rate rose in 1989 to an average 232 per cent, largely because of Yugoslavia's 1,239 per cent and Poland's 244 per cent. A fund official said Poland's inflation has dropped sharply this

year because of the new non-communist government's shock programme to shift away from communism to a market system.

Annual figures for Africa and the Middle East were incomplete. Many Middle East countries have not been reporting in recent years. Among those that have, Israel's rate rose to 20.2 per cent last year from 16.3 per cent and Egypt's to 21.3 per cent from 17.7 per cent.

Africa's average appeared steady: 18.9 per cent in 1988 and 21.3 per cent in the third quarter of 1989. The African average masked a wide range, from Zambia's annual 186 per cent last October to small price reductions in several countries including Chad, Togo and the Central African Republic.

Only Asia's average showed a decline in the inflation rate: For 21 countries there the annual average dropped to 10.2 per cent last year from the 11.8 per cent of 1988.



Ultimate luxury

Workers at Carriage House Motors in New York polish the ultimate in luxury cars (left), the Rolls Royce Silver Spur 11. Only 25 of these cars, priced at \$175,000 each, will be built for the American market. The car's amenities include a



refrigerator designed to hold two champagne bottles, rare walnut wood and silver fittings, and a ten-speaker remote-controlled entertainment system. At night, champagne is being served from the car's refrigerator. (Reuters wirephoto)

Oapec attacks tax on oil goods

Kuwait, Iran to hold talks

KUWAIT, May 8. (AP): The Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries yesterday accused oil-consuming nations of damaging investment plans of crude producers with high taxes on oil products.

In the May issue of Oapec's monthly bulletin, the Kuwait-based organisation said the taxes on oil products make it difficult for the oil producers to predict consumption levels in the industrialised world.

"The enormous investment needed to expand production capacity require a comparable increase in consumption to make them economically justified," Oapec said.

"However, the prospects for growth in world oil demand are subject to constant revision."

Oapec contended that some countries have hiked taxes during falling oil prices, indicating they were determined to reduce domestic oil consumption through taxation.

Concern about environmental protection may lead to still-higher taxes, it said.

Oapec called for a dialogue with the consuming states to help its members in planning future investments in expanding their oil output capacity.

Oapec groups 11 Arab oil producing states, several of which also doubled as members of the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries. They include Gulf Arab exporters Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Iraq.

"The scale of investments and manpower required to expand the production capacity of Oapec countries is such that these countries must first ascertain the forecast pattern of demand on which to base their investment decisions," Oapec said.

"So long as no construction atmosphere of co-operation exists with the consumers, the producers cannot be expected to make investments without any sure signs of profits."

Iran's oil minister will pay an official visit to Kuwait for talks with his Kuwaiti counterpart Sheikh Ali Khalifah Al Sabah, an oil-industry newsletter said yesterday.

"This visit will give us a chance to discuss long-term strategy and co-operation between our two countries," the Nicosia, Cyprus-based Middle East Economic Survey (Mees) quoted Sheikh Ali as saying.

"We have a lot in common with Iran in terms of ultimate objectives and it is about time that we sat together to explore means of co-operation in these areas in a rational manner."

The visit, due to begin May 15, is a follow-up to discussions held between the two ministers in Geneva last week.

Alghazadeh and Sheikh Ali were in Geneva for an emergency Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) meeting to agree on temporary oil production cutbacks to steady the shaky oil market and maintain price levels.

Alghazadeh told reporters that he had lengthy talks with Sheikh Ali on the long-term prospects for the oil market, and that the two ministers had agreed to meet again to continue these discussions.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, on Monday joined another key oil exporter, Kuwait, in welcoming the recent agreement among members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) to curtail the cartel's overall production to stabilise oil prices.

But the Arab kingdom cautioned that containing the present glut on the oil market and achieving the targeted benchmark price of \$18 a barrel would require all member states to stick to their decreed quotas.

International crude oil futures moved up in light trading Monday just a few days after Opec oil and energy minister agreed to cut back export production.

On the New York Mercantile Exchange (Nymex) West Texas Intermediate (WTI), the American benchmark crude, gained 29 cents to close at \$18.27 a barrel for June delivery while the July contract put on 27 cents to finish at \$18.86.

North Yemen plans gas grid

SANAA, May 8. (Reuters): North Yemen is studying plans to build a billion-dollar pipeline grid to generate power in its main cities by tapping its large gas reserves, oil industry sources said today.

They said a Dutch firm had prepared an initial feasibility study for the project which would involve spending up to \$1.2 billion to lay a line from central oil-producing fields to all major population centres. The line would be 24 to 26 inches (61 to 66 cm) in diameter.

Oil and Minerals Minister Ahmed Al-Muthni said on Saturday the country's gas reserves were 8.3 trillion cubic feet, compared with recoverable crude reserves of 500 million barrels.

Gas from its producing Al-Jawf field in the Marib-Jawf basin is presently being reinjected or flared.

The gas is a huge resource that no one knows what to do with yet, one industry source said.

Nigerian decision

Big output cut

LAGOS, May 8. (Reuters): Nigeria announced today a big cut in its oil output in line with moves by other Opec states to support prices, which have fallen by up to 25 per cent this year.

"The amount that Nigeria was supposed to be making in excess of its quota was 140,000 barrels per day (bpd). This is the amount by which we intend to cut down," Oil Minister Jibril Aminu said.

The 13 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries decided at an emergency meeting in Geneva last week to cut output by 1.445 million bpd to try and mop up an oil surplus seen as responsible for a sharp fall in prices.

Nigeria's output was estimated at 1.75 million bpd in April against an allocated quota of 1.611 million.

With total group output 1.5 to two million bpd above its 22 million bpd ceiling, set last November, prices for the actively traded Brent oil crashed below \$16 a barrel last month from as high as \$20 in January.

Opec's target price for a basket of its crudes is \$18.

Aminu said prices had failed to recover since the meeting because of manipulation by speculators, analysts and traders who suggested that Opec would not be able to stick to its accord.

Poles rush to buy Universal

Biggest privatisation

WARSAW, May 8. (Reuters): Dozens of people gathered outside the headquarters of a leading Polish foreign trade company today to buy a piece of Poland's biggest privatisation.

The state-owned Universal company opened a public subscription yesterday of almost 10 million shares, worth 98.5 billion zloties (\$10.5 million) — the largest privatisation since the government launched market-oriented economic reforms at the start of the year.

"We want to go private in order to become more reliable for our Western clients," said Tomasz Lukaszewicz, Universal's development manager. "We also need a major increase in our capital in line with the quick development of the company."

The privatisation is being handled by big S.A., a small bank which earlier this year became the first state-owned financial institution in Poland to go private. Krzysztof Wantola, a big director, said there was huge interest in the offer.

The state treasury currently owns 51 per cent of Universal with the rest held by 72 state

enterprises. After privatisation, state companies will retain ownership of up to a third of the company while foreign investors will be allowed up to 30 per cent of the public subscription.

Lukaszewicz said Universal wanted to become a joint stock company with a capital of 150 billion zloties (\$16 million).

In 1989, its capital was only 859 million zloties (\$91,700) while its turnover was 638 billion zloties (\$68.1 million), making it one of Poland's three biggest foreign trade companies.

The shares, whose face value is 10,000 zloties (\$1.06) each, are offered for 20,000 zloties (\$2.12) and Lukaszewicz said the excess money would form a reserve capital to be used for buying up Polish companies that go bankrupt.

Many bankruptcies are expected under the government's austerity measures to reform the economy.

A key element of the changes is a privatisation bill, currently before Parliament, which is expected to lead eventually to the sale of most Polish state enterprises.

Seoul orders firms to sell real estate

SEOUL, May 8. (AP): The South Korean government tried to spur the economy by ordering leading businesses to sell millions of dollars in real estate.

The government decided last week to force big business groups to sell their excessive real estate holdings in hopes the proceeds will be invested in stocks to save the tumbling stock market.

Today's order affected 49 leading conglomerates, including the five largest in South Korea: Hyundai group, Daewoo group, Samsung group, Hanjin group, and Lucky-Goldstar group.

If the conglomerates do not sell by year's end real estate being held for speculation or not needed, they will face punitive

action, the government.

The order was contained in a set of government measures announced by Deputy Prime Minister Lee Seung-Yun to fight real estate speculation and inflation, aimed at invigorating the country's sagging economy.

Lee, who announced the measures in a joint news conference with five other cabinet ministers, said that those businesses which refuse to comply with the government orders will face punitive taxes and a cutoff in fresh bank loans.

Yesterday President Roh Tae-woo said in a televised speech the government was determined to force big businesses to sell their real estate.

Energy file

30,000 Indian oil officials on strike

NEW DELHI, May 8. (Reuters): More than 30,000 senior employees in India's state oil industry defied a government ban and went on strike for higher pay today, officials said.

Indian Airlines, the main domestic carrier, said a large number of flights had been cancelled because of a lack of aviation fuel.

Only nine of the 29 scheduled flights from Bombay would leave today, airline officials said. International flights could also be affected as many foreign carriers refuelled in Bombay.

An Indian Oil Corporation official said the one-day strike would not have much impact on production. "The strike is only a token protest and production losses could be easily made up," he said.

The government today banned strikes in the oil sector, declaring it an essential service.

Senior industry employees, including managers and engineers, called off a proposed three-day strike last month after talks with the government.

In Bombay, a spokesman for the Oil Sector Officers Association said the government had appealed for the strike to be cancelled but the appeal came too late to tell members to call it off.

Denial

Shares in oil-drilling companies soared by up to eight per cent on the Israeli stock exchange yesterday on rumours, quickly denied, that an offshore drilling project close to Tel Aviv might strike oil.

Danny Toledano, an official of Isramco Israel Inc, the drilling company, denied the report published in Israel's mass circulation daily Yedioth Ahronoth.

He said his firm had simply decided to make a commercial feasibility test on possible gas production.

"We did get a positive result from the drilling, but it has only marginal significance on the prospects of finding oil," he told Reuters.

Boost

Venezuela may consider raising oil production by up to one million barrels per day to supply a new strategic reserve for the Western Hemisphere, Energy Minister Celestino Armas said.

Armas told a news conference the idea of a strategic reserve, to be drawn on in emergencies by the countries in the hemisphere, was raised by President Carlos Andres Perez on a recent visit to Washington.

"President Perez raised the possibility of developing what would be called a strategic hemisphere potential," Armas said.

Armas did not say how long it would take Venezuela to raise its capacity enough to accommodate such an increase in production.

Contract

The French oil company, Elf Aquitaine, is due to start offshore drilling work in Qatar in September this year, according to the counsellor of the local French embassy, Jean Paul Lrman.

The exploration and production-sharing contract was signed in January 1989 covering "Area No. 6" in Qatar's continental shelf.

Irrmann, who was talking to the "Gulf Times" newspaper, said as part of the contract, the French company would also lift 30,000 bpd of crude from Qatar.

Meanwhile, another French company, Alcatel, is expected to start work "very soon" on the supply and installation of a \$3.6 million, 10,000-line public telephone exchange in the country.

Low trading

Crude oil prices closed higher after a late rally yesterday on the New York Mercantile Exchange, but trading volume remained low in the absence of any major developments.

The brief rally also helped push product prices up on the Merc.

The Merc's slow activity also reflected the closing of the London markets, which were observing a banking holiday. Only about 50,000 crude oil contracts were traded on the Merc, against a normal daily volume of about 75,000 contracts.

The benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude for June delivery gained 29 cents to settle at \$18.27 a barrel. WTI prices declined sharply last week in response to a less-than-expected production cutback announced by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Unleaded gasoline for June delivery, which rose sharply last week on rumours of problems at refineries of some of the major US companies, added another 0.74 cent to 61.86 cents a gallon.

American work-rate continues to dawdle

WASHINGTON, May 8. (AP): American workers productivity continued to lag in the first three months of 1990, posting its worst performance in a year, the government said yesterday.

"It's a reminder of what we already knew — that the economy isn't doing too well," said David Wyss, an economist at DRI-McGraw Hill Inc. Research firm in Lexington, Massachusetts.

Non-farm productivity — defined as output per hour of work — declined by 1 per cent, the biggest drop since productivity fell by an annual rate of 1.3 per cent for the January-March period last year.

During all of last year, productivity rose just 0.9 per cent, the poorest showing since the 1981-82 recession.

Increasing productivity is considered basic to boosting living standards because it allows businesses to pay workers more as their output rises without risking higher inflation.

Irwin Kellner, chief economist at manufacturers Hanover Trust, a major New York bank, said productivity sometimes plunges in a quarter because of statistical quirks, but the nation's continuing anemic productivity pace is distressing.

"In the long term, we should be very concerned because we're not being efficient enough to increase our living standard. It's also making it difficult to compete with other countries," Kellner said.

Meanwhile, unit labour costs, a key gauge of future price inflation, rose a sharp 4.9 per cent so far this year, the report said, compared with a 4.5 per cent increase during all of 1989.

"It suggests a rock-hard underlying inflation rate of 4.5 to 5 per cent," economist Allen Sinai said of the increase in unit labour costs. "It's not likely to get much better anything soon without the economy getting more productivity."

However, Sinai, chief economist at the Boston Co. financial firm, noted that hourly labour costs — a major inflation measure for businesses — rose at an annual rate of 3.9 per cent in the first quarter of 1990.

He called the 3.9 per cent rise a bright spot, noting those costs increased by 5.5 per cent for all of 1989.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraq, Turkey sign accord: An accord signed in Baghdad at the weekend between Iraq and Turkey, is expected to promote bilateral trade and economic, technical and scientific co-operation. Signed at the end of the three-day official visit here by Turkish Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut, the agreement stipulates an increase in and diversification of trade exchanges between the two countries, with Turkey extending credit facilities to finance Iraqi imports from Ankara as well as providing help for projects in the Arab state. (OPECNA)

Gulf Air orders engines: Gulf Air, the airline of four GCC countries, has ordered CFM International jet engines worth \$225 million to power Airbus Industrie A320 jetliners, the engine maker said Monday.

CFM said the CFM56-5 engines would power 12 firm and six option Airbus jetliners. Delivery is to begin in 1992 and continue through 1994.

Gulf Air, owned by Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and Abu Dhabi, plans to use the Airbus jetliners to expand its fleet of short-to medium-range aircraft and to replace aging Boeing 737-200s, CFM said. (AP)

Iran opens new production line: A new production line opened on Monday at Iran aluminium factory, raising annual output to 70,000 tonnes, Iranian television reported.

Mines and Metal Minister Mohammad Hossein Mahlouchi said on television that the nearly 30 per cent increase in output at the plant in the central city of Arak would help curb the rise in aluminium prices in Iran. (Reuters)

Iranian ports repairs under way: The repair, reconstruction and renovation of three strategic Iranian ports is under way in the provincial cities of Khorramshahr, Abadan and Bandar Khomeini, it has been reported in Abwaz, Khuzestan province.

The government has approved a budget of \$35.7 million for the projects 22.8 million of which will be spent on the reconstruction of Khorramshahr and Abadan ports with the remainder earmarked for the Khomeini Port. (OPECNA)

Soviets grain farmers paid: The Soviet government Monday doubled the price paid to grain farmers in hopes of stimulating this year's harvest, at the risk of a substantial increase in its budget deficit.

The price paid for top-quality soft grain will rise from 260 rubles to 500 rubles per ton under Monday's order from the council of ministers. Tass reported. The price paid of other grains will rise by 30 per cent to nearly 100 per cent.

But while farmers will be paid more to produce animal feed, they will not be asked to pay higher prices for the feed they buy, the announcement said. (AP)

Ethiopia offers tax breaks: Ethiopia, seeking to liberalise its socialist economy, has issued a

Compromised budget

No preconditions

WASHINGTON, May 8. (AP): President George Bush has agreed with congressional leaders to set "no preconditions" on their effort to negotiate a bipartisan budget compromise, the White House said yesterday.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said the talks will be "unfettered" by stances held in the past, including Bush's longstanding insistence that there be no new taxes.

He said that new efforts to forge a compromise were motivated in part by "anxiety over a deficit that is fighting every reduction attempt that we can come up with."

"The participants agreed on two or three kind of basic operating principles. One would be that there are no preconditions, that anyone can bring up in issue for discussion and debate," Fitzwater told reporters.

Asked whether Bush was abandoning his refusal to consider raising taxes, Fitzwater replied "The tax matter was not discussed in the meeting yesterday. The president's prevalence and philosophy on this issue is quite well known."

"But what they did agree to last night was that they would not get involved and discussions about taxation or specific issues, but rather would stick to the phrase of 'no preconditions' and begin an open debate that is unfettered with conclusions about positions taken in the past," he said.

decree opening up the key sectors of agriculture, industry and foreign trade to private investment.

In Sunday's decree the government offered tax breaks of up to five years for those willing to invest in Ethiopia's economy.

The official Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) said start-up materials for new projects would be exempt from import duty. (Reuters)

Greyhound strike still on: Greyhound chairman Fred Curry declared victory Monday in the 2-month-old bus drivers' strike, but the union said the bitter walkout against the country's biggest long-distance bus company was by no means over.

"We are no longer driver-inhibited," Curry told reporters at a new conference called by the company at its Dallas headquarters. The statement came a day after the company proposed a four-year wage freeze and the elimination of 4,500 union jobs, a proposal the union called an "insult." (AP)

Gaming ventures in USSR: A Nevada company has signed an agreement with the Soviet government to operate four small casinos in Russia, a company official said.

Officials hope to open the first casino along the Black Sea in less than two months, according to Simon Furman, general manager for Uniquad.

Uniquad will spend about \$1 million to open the four casinos in existing hotels, he said. (AP)

American banks under pressure want new federal rules

NEW YORK, May 8. (UPI): America's bankers want a new deal.

Governed since 1933 by federal legislation separating commercial banks, which take deposits and make loans, and investment banks, which underwrite and sell securities, US bankers contend they will be seriously handicapped in fierce global competition unless the rules are rewritten.

The focal point of debate is the Banking Act of 1933, more commonly known as the Glass-Steagall Act for its congressional sponsors, drafted in response to abuses that contributed to the 1929 stock market crash.

Historians debate whether Glass-Steagall was a panacea for banking problems or simply a way to punish Wall Street by breaking up financial empires such as the J.P. Morgan & Co. banking concern. But a consensus seems to be emerging that it is time to seriously rethink US banking law.

Even E. Gerald Corrigan, president of the New York Federal Reserve Bank — one of the country's leading watchdogs on financial system stability — told the Senate

this month there is a "need to promptly enact broad-based legislation that would reform and modernise" financial structures.

Fed spokesman Joseph Coyne said the US central bank believes Glass-Steagall should go. "We have asked for Glass-Steagall to be repealed," Coyne said. "There's a lot of sentiment in the Congress to support that."

Resistance from the securities and insurance industries, initially stiff, has tempered considerably, said Daniel McDermott, legislative counsel for the financial services council. He said the group's members represent most of the industries with a stake in the legislation.

While there's no consensus on the shape of financial modernisation legislation, "turf-based opposition" has given way to the view that US code should reflect the modern world, McDermott said. And most of the industries concerned have a stake in enhancing US global competitiveness.

Nonetheless, the most vigorous proponents of Glass-Steagall revision are the commercial banks, who say the financial services revolution obliges them to diversify into

other activities. They also want to lift barriers to branching out across state lines — so-called interstate banking.

Bankers argue that tight restriction of US institutions weakens them in the face of stiffening international competition from Japanese megabanks and European central banks forging new alliances. Even at home, they say, US lenders often give foreign banks competitive advantages.

"If American banks become less important suppliers of financial services, more and more financial business will be conducted by foreign institutions in overseas markets," argued an American Bankers Association report on global competitiveness, warning of lost economic benefits.

It perceived a big threat to traditional US banking leadership in the 1992 economic unification programme of the European Economic Community.

European banks by 1992 will operate under a community-wide code providing for so-called universal banking, which combines the features of commercial and investment banking with, often, insurance business as well. Mergers and joint ventures will create major new global competitors.

"US banks will have difficulty competing in this new environment in Europe except in products for which they have developed technological and marketing expertise at home," said the association report. "They will be less effective competitors for products such as insurance and securities for which they cannot develop expertise in the domestic market."

Around the globe, huge Japanese banks with deep pools of capital could become more agile as well once their national banking code is revised to allow more direct involvement in securities. Penetration of the US market, directly or through acquisitions, is seen as yet another menace.

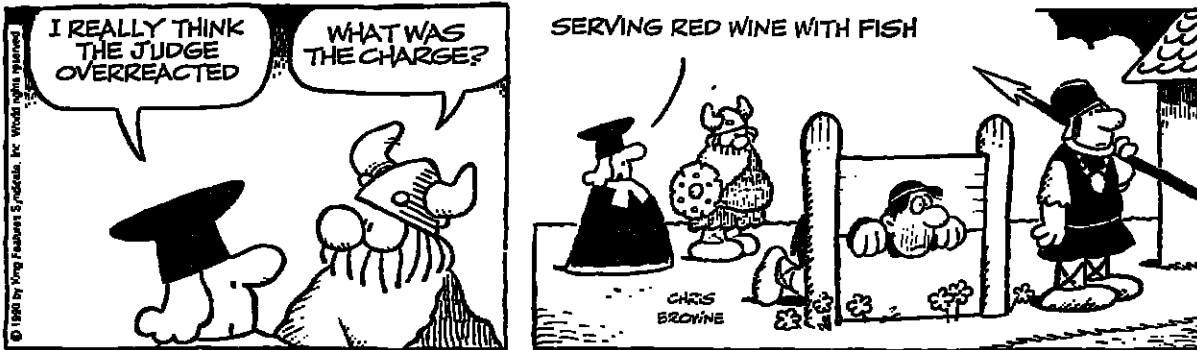
These are not, for US bankers, the best of times. Just as they picked themselves up, dusted off their pin-striped and limped away from the Third World lending catastrophe of the 1980s, they were sideswiped by troubled domestic real estate loans.

Bearing down from the other direction are over-leveraged companies groaning under the weight of junk-bond debt.

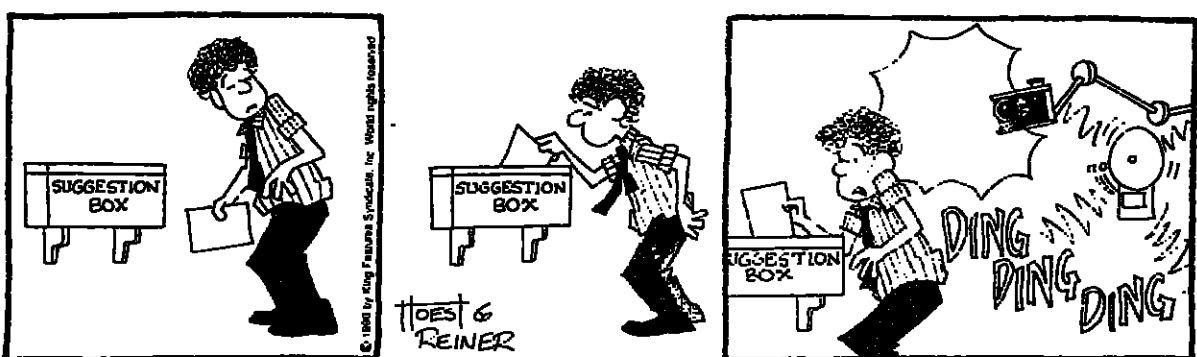
BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dik Browne



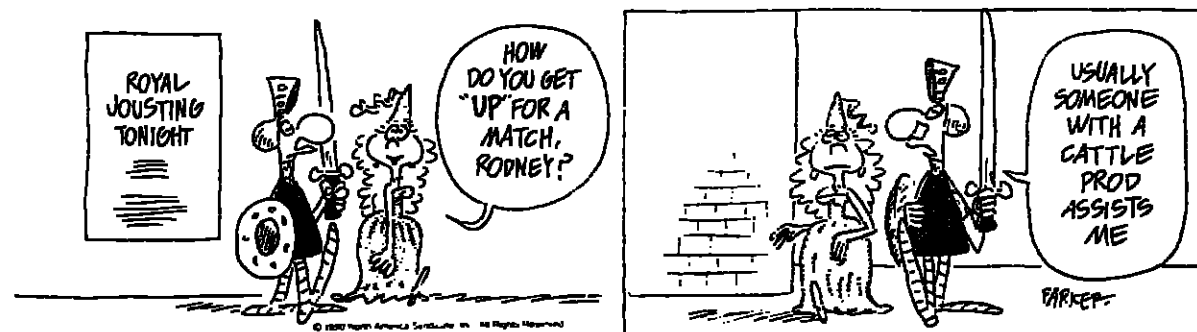
AGATHA CRUM — By Bill Hoest



BEETLE BAILEY — By Mont Walker



THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



ANDY CAPP



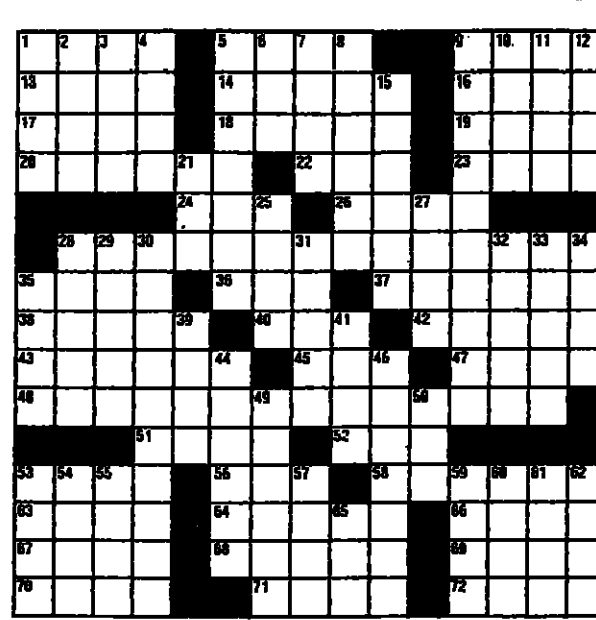
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Forton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Source of rose
 - A way up
 - Gold cloth
 - Knight of the road
 - Persian sprites
 - Eager
 - Asian native ruler
 - Listing
 - Bingo's relative
 - Judged
 - Something to lend
 - Piccadilly statue
 - Entertainer
 - Zadora
 - Thin covering
 - Glenn Miller gem
 - Naked
 - Obtain
 - Type of car
 - Draw out
 - Disconsolate
 - Military chaplain
 - Pottery
 - Fragments: Var.
 - Thing, in law
 - Gardener's bane
 - Glenn Miller "black tie" connection
 - Berne's river
 - Old salt
 - Latin I word
 - Safer's flair, for short
 - Matinee idol
 - Power
 - Skirt style
 - Mystery writer
 - Rex
 - Scope
 - Within: Comb. form
 - Taut
 - Tangy
 - Observed
- DOWN**
- 1 Shanty
 - Southfork, to a Ewing
 - Irish Rose's lover
 - Quad edifices
 - Gardening activity
 - Asian holiday
 - One of HOMES
 - Rice dish: Var.
 - Zambezi River feeder
 - Ripener
 - Single: Comb. form
 - Personalities
 - Denudes
 - Final
 - Generations
 - Do a jets
 - Hindu holy man
 - Movie actor
 - Ernest —
 - Part of R and R
 - Hokkaido
 - Island port
 - Entertainment, western style
 - Screen star
 - Prune, Scottish style
 - Outdo
 - Norse saga
 - Small depression
 - Most tender
 - Strew
 - Court buffoon
 - Attempt
 - Iowa college town
 - Ore source
 - Poker term
 - Corn cake
 - Velocity
 - Algerian seaport
 - Insignificant one
 - Consumes
 - "Born in the —"

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

LOCAT ALPS OPENS
EBAN REAL VIREO
NORTH CAROLINIAN
TEPEE DEPOSITONS
NRA BET
PLUTOCRATS RASP
EON ITALO PENTA
RIPEN BIO REGAL
ARISE BATHE EKE
KENT DISHEVELED
ROI MIA
ALBATROSS ERAISE
PAINT THE TOWN RED
SINGE MEOW EGAD
EDGER SPAN DORY

GOREN BRIDGE

GENTLEMEN, THE LADIES

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ K 7 3
♥ A 2
♦ A 9 7 6
♣ A K 9 6

WEST
♠ Q 9 8 6
♥ Q J 8 7
♦ K
♣ Q J 4 3

EAST
♠ J
♥ K 6
♦ Q J 8 4 2
♣ 10 8 7 5 2

SOUTH
♠ A 10 5 4 2
♥ 10 9 5 4 3
♦ 10 5 3
♣ Void

The bidding:

West North East South
Pass 1 ♦ Pass 1 ♣
Pass 2 NT Pass 4 ♠
Pass 4 ♠ Pass 4 ♠
Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠
From time to time, the writers of this column have been accused of being male chauvinists. While that might hold true of our belief that the best players are men, let us assure you that there are no more ardent admirers of the fair sex than we. This hand was played by a young Israeli, Ilana Barnes, in the

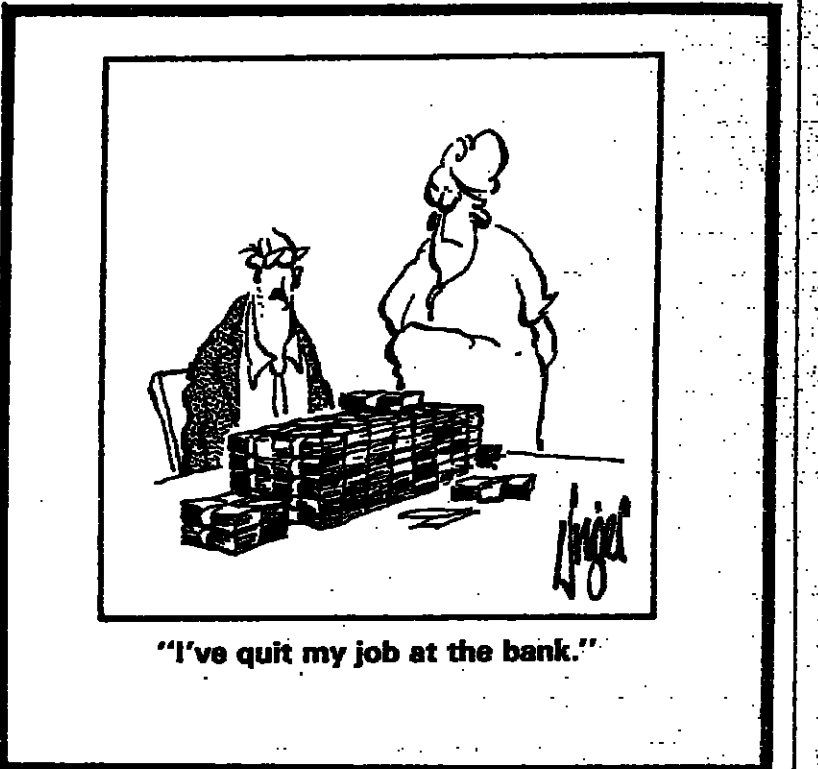
Women's Pairs at the 1989 European Championship.

North-South were using a 15-17 range for their opening no trumps. South's jump to four hearts denied interest in anything beyond game.

Declarer won the opening club lead in dummy, discarding a diamond from hand. The ace of hearts was cashed, followed by a low heart to East's king. Another diamond was stuffed on the club return, and when the king of spades was cashed, East dropped a tell-tale jack.

A club ruff in hand and a heart ruff in dummy were followed by the ace of diamonds and another club ruff. A second heart ruff reduced West to nothing but trumps, while there were three diamonds on the board and declarer was down to A 10 of trumps and 10 of hearts.

Declarer led a diamond from dummy and discarded the winning heart from hand. With nothing but trumps, West was forced to ruff and return a trump into declarer's tenace. As a result, South romped home with 11 tricks on a hand where many were going down at four spades because they drew two rounds of trumps too early.



YOUR STARS



Aries
March 21 - April 20
Something you are learning will take longer than you thought but you should persevere. You are liable to be short-tempered and should do your best to restrain yourself. Listen to what others are saying. Be sincere.



Cancer
June 21 - July 20
You will be able to do something very much to your liking. Make sure your partner is taken into your confidence. Do not interfere in what does not concern you. Be tactful.



Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 23
You should not allow your eyes to be bigger than your financial capacity. And if you try to keep up with some well to do neighbours you could well come to grief. Show a little more concern for others. Be generous.



Capricorn
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19
You should beware of spending more than you can really afford however much of a 'bargain' you might be tempted to buy. You should think hard and long before deciding to go ahead with what you have in mind. Be resilient.



Taurus
April 21 - May 20
Avoid extravagance but do not be mean either. You will be able to make an important decision about a matter that has been troubling you. And once you have made it do not delay. Be reasonable.



Leo
July 21 - Aug. 21
You will be able to do something you had long wanted to do but it will prove something of a disappointment. You should think a little more constructively. Take your mind off gloomy thoughts and look on the bright side. Be fair.



Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 23
You will tend to find offence where none was meant and should try not to do so. Your lucky numbers are 17 and 34. Something that has been puzzling you will now become much clearer. Do take better care of your health. Be respectful.



Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 19
You will be able to solve a mystery, but you should avoid guesswork and jumping to conclusions. Make sure you do not eat too many sweet or starchy foods. Think once again before you make up your mind. Be amenable.



Gemini
May 21 - June 20
You should not try to do many things all at once. You will tend to be forgetful so do not spurn aside de-memoires. Something you have been trying to learn will now fall into place. Be tidy.



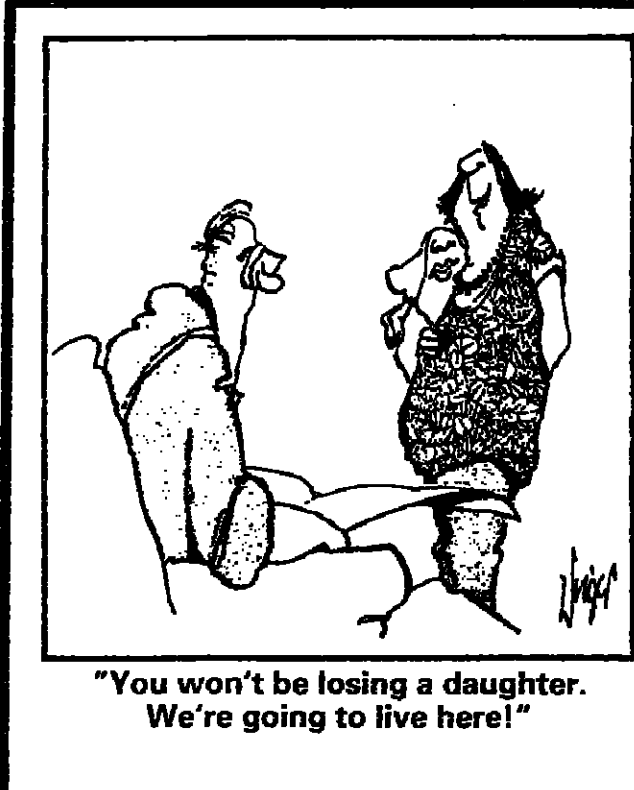
Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22
You should not neglect your personal life and should take your mind off work for the day. An offer or proposal should be studied carefully before you accept it. Be less selfish.



Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 20
You should pay a little more attention to the state of your health. Do not spend money you have not got in the hope of a wind-fall. Do not try to run before you can walk. Be compassionate.



Pisces
Feb. 19 - Mar. 20
You are more likely to make mistakes so be on the lookout for them. A small infection should not be neglected, nor should it be dwelt too much upon. Make sure you do not break a promise you have made. Be true to your word.



Americans overcome fear of one foreign language—German

After Berlin Wall, they flock to classes

By Katharine A. Schmidt

LOS ANGELES, California, (UPI): When it comes to foreign languages, Americans are hesitant, teachers say, and generally shun tongues with complex grammar rules—like German, for instance.

But as the Berlin Wall crumbles, Americans are overcoming their fear of German and swelling enrollments in classes at cultural centres and universities.

Some of the students are exploring their roots. Others, officials say, are betting that they will need the language to further their careers in business.

"As soon as the changes (at the Berlin Wall) started to happen, we got calls—people wanted to join our classes, but they were almost over," said Gabriele Landwehr, head of the language programme at the Los Angeles branch of the Goethe Institute, a cultural and educational organisation supported by the West German government.

"Right now, we get people who say, 'you know, my German mother was from Bingen... and now I want to go see it,'" Landwehr said.

The number of classes at the Institute, named for the German poet and scientist Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, has doubled since the Berlin Wall started tumbling last November, she said.

German cultural centres in other cities report a similar rise in interest.

The Goethe Institute in Chicago doubled its language classes, and in Milwaukee, where German traditions are still carried on by 40 cultural groups, the Goethe House increased its number of German history classes by 25 per cent, director Ernst Edlhauser said.

"When the Wall story happened, many more Americans, very often people not of German descent, came and wanted to learn something about German history," Edlhauser said.

Some of those Americans are motivated by the bottom line, teachers say.

"It seems the word is out there that German is still the most difficult of the three languages (that high school students traditionally take)," Strasser said. Students prefer either French or Spanish, he said, and do not yet see the usefulness of German.

Stephen Wailes, head of the German Department at Bloomington University in Indiana, said he thought freshmen may not appreciate the possible effects of political and economic change in Europe.

"My perception is that these events, for young people, are so far away and don't seem to touch their lives in any significant way," he said.

For the older students who are filling

German cultural centres, however, recent events seem to have added to a current of interest in German language and culture that officials link to two factors: the 1983 tricentennial of German immigration to the United States, and West Germany's economic strength within the economic community.

The Goethe Institute in Houston reports a steady increase in language course enrollment since 1983, and this year, it has had many more requests than usual for an exam in business German.

In New York, Laura Koehler of the German Information Centre said Americans of German descent have been more active in events since the

tricentennial.

Breuer, in Chicago, said he considers unification a more important factor.

"I think German unification, and European unification is a much more important subject, in terms of general interest, and our future activities," he said.

Students in the Chicago Goethe Institute are primarily businessmen and women, plus a large number of travel agents and airline attendants, director Walter Breuer said. In Los Angeles, a significant minority of students are business people from Asian and Latin American countries, Landwehr said.

At Pennsylvania State University and the University of Southern California

in Los Angeles, students majoring in subjects such as economics, business and political science are already swelling German course enrollments.

"We're beginning to see students who are pragmatically oriented toward Europe in 1992 (when the economic integration of Europe is to take place)," said Gerhard Strasser, a professor in Penn state's Department of German and Comparative Literature.

He said professors at his school and other universities have noticed a rise in interest over the past year.

"Now with events in East Europe, the liberalisation of trade, that is definitely driving up enrollment," he said.

Book reviews

'Bound to Lead'

Bound to Lead: The Changing Nature of American Power, by Joseph S. Nye Jr.

(Basic books, 307 pp., \$19.95)

There is a growing body of work, such as Paul Kennedy's *Rise and Fall of Great Powers*, that contends America's Imperial Age is over and that its influence in the world is declining.

The arguments, however, don't persuade Joseph S. Nye Jr., Ford Foundation Professor of International Security at Harvard University, and in his valuable *Bound to Lead* he sets out to refute the pessimists and naysayers.

Nye begins by persuasively challenging the notion that the United States held hegemonic or imperial sway over the world in the aftermath of World War II. He marshals a host of examples of the nation's inability to get its way in international power and policy disputes.

In separate chapters, Nye examines the military, economic, and cultural resources available to the United States as it enters the 1990s and prepares for the 21st century. He also looks at potential challenges to America's leadership from the communist camp and from Allies. Written while events in Eastern Europe were still unfolding, Nye may understate the potential of Europe but is persuasive in rebutting those putting Japan forward as the likely next leading power.

Still, Nye is not a Pollyanna. He argues acutely that the US role is more likely to be undermined by events at home than abroad.

Although his argument is complex and wide-ranging, Nye writes straight-forward prose that makes his work accessible. *A Border Station*, by Shane Connaughton

(St Martin's, 165 pp., \$14.95)

This first novel by Academy award-winning screenwriter Shane Connaughton was a best-seller in his native Ireland, and deservedly so.

Connaughton was co-author of the screenplay for the acclaimed film *My Left Foot*. His descriptive prose and obvious empathy with his young hero suggest these seven interconnected stories contain more than a little autobiographical material.

The stories detail incidents in the life of a boy living along the Irish Republic's border with Ulster. Through his relationships with his doting mother, his stern police sergeant father, a policeman neighbour and assorted villagers and chums, the boy slowly emerges from naive to a growing awareness of what the real world might be like.

Each story is a gem, and together they provide a remarkably insightful glimpse into rural Irish life. This immensely readable book will probably produce laughter, tears and a sense of "I've been there" in many readers. And there's no higher praise than that.

The Fifth Profession, by David Morrell

(Warner, 448 pp., \$19.95)

The Fifth Profession starts at a pace most authors would be hard-pressed to end with. But what else would you expect from the man who gave the world *Rambo*.

David Morrell's hero in his latest novel is known simply as *Savage*, an executive protector, the *Fifth Profession*.

Savage is hired by a beautiful American movie star, now the princess of a tiny European principality, to find her equally beautiful sister, widow of an assassinated New England senator-presidential candidate. Her new husband, a Greek millionaire, is holding her prisoner and abusing her on a remote Aegean island.

The operation goes well until *Savage* realizes that one of the Greek's protectors is Akira, a Japanese whom *Savage* had seen decapitated when they worked together on a previous assignment. Akira, who also "saw" *Savage* killed, joins forces with *Savage* to find the truth.



A Rwandan peasant woman tends a tiny patch of sweet potatoes on a hillside near the southern town of Butare.

Rwanda suffers 'green hunger'

Peasants go hungry

By Frances Kerry

BUTARE, Rwanda, (Reuters): On a picturesque hillside in southern Rwanda a peasant woman hoes a tiny, sloping patch of sweet potatoes.

A soft rain is falling and around her the small fields of bananas, beans, potatoes, maize and coffee are lush and fertile.

But, with a baby strapped to her back and three other children playing nearby, Domitienne Kanai is struggling to feed her family.

"The days we have food, we eat. The days we don't, we just go to sleep hungry," she says.

This is 'green famine' in Rwanda, a small country in Central Africa with one of the highest population densities on the continent. Relief workers call it hidden hunger because the backdrop is not the parched earth and withered crops of a traditional African famine, but an apparently blooming garden.

They estimate that several hundred people have died of hunger over the last six months. Hundreds of thousands of people in southern and western Rwanda are facing acute food shortages due to a series of setbacks to their crops over the past 18 months—hail, too much rain, not enough rain and plant diseases.

Underlying all this is a chronic cause—Rwanda has simply become too densely populated to feed itself.

"They can't keep up any more," said Ardag Meghdesian, representative of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Rwanda.

The balance—between growth in production and growth in population—has broken.

The WFP and the government aim to distribute 8,000 tonnes of food aid to 240,000 of the neediest people from now until June.

"Overpopulation is one of the main reasons for this year's food shortages," said Jean-

Christome Ndinababizi, director of the National Population Control Programme in Butare, one of the most densely populated and worst hit provinces.

"It's just a question of too many people on not enough land."

With more than seven million people squeezed into 26,000 square km (10,000 square miles), an area the size of Ireland, this former Belgian colony has a population density of 350 people per square km (560 per square mile).

And despite vigorous government support for family planning, Rwanda's 3.7 per cent annual population growth rate is one of the world's highest.

Agriculture Minister Anastase Nteziryayo said present plans to feed only the most needy famine victims left out several hundred thousand other people expected to go hungry this year.

The worst affected were those with so little land they could not cope when their small harvest was reduced by bad weather or disease, he said.

"When times are bad, these people have no reserves."

Landlocked, almost entirely mountainous and with a balmy, well-watered climate, Rwanda likes to call itself the Switzerland of Africa.

But the tiny plots cultivated on every hillside by its peasant farmers are getting smaller as each generation divides up the family land among the children.

The average family of five lives from the food and cash crops grown on one hectare (2.4 acres) of land. Some 2.5 million people live on half that.

Despite efforts to terrace the hillsides and prevent erosion, constant cultivation is exhausting the soil and reducing its productivity.

"Farmers can't afford any more to leave 20

percent of their land fallow for a year like they used to," said Meghdesian.

Coffee—which provides 90 per cent of Rwanda's export revenue—has also been hit by bad weather and disease.

Poor harvests and a slump in world coffee prices have combined to reduce the small cash income many farmers rely on to buy food they cannot grow.

The government was forced to cut the price it pays farmers for their coffee by 20 per cent last January, so many peasants were left with virtually no money, Nteziryayo said.

Relief and diplomatic sources in the capital Kigali said the government was at first reluctant to admit there were food shortages.

"They have always had a passion for self-sufficiency. It has come as a blow to admit there were shortages," said one diplomatic source.

Meghdesian said more help may soon be needed as the prospects for this year's harvest are not good either.

In the longer term, today's temporary food shortages could become a permanent deficit. "We cannot put our hope in agriculture," Nteziryayo said. "Maybe we could increase yields with more fertiliser, more pesticides, but the problem would be back in five to 10 years."

With virtually no industry, Rwanda will have to look fast for ways to support itself.

"There may even have to be a programme of emigration, to nearby countries which have more land," the agriculture minister said.

A few years ago, Rwanda put forward a plan for one million of its citizens to emigrate to neighbouring Tanzania. But it fell through because Tanzania would not allow them to be settled in areas near the Rwandan frontier.

Some see Rwanda's current crisis as lesson for the rest of Africa.

"This is a showcase of what could happen to Africa if there is not a big increase in agricultural production and a slowing in population growth," said Meghdesian.

The past catches up with Rob Lowe..on screen

By Frank Durham

PRETTY-BOY Brat Packer Rob Lowe just can't seem to put his real-life naughty boy image behind him. Just when the world might be getting round to forgetting his indiscretion with an under-age girl, here comes a new movie about an amazingly similar situation—and he's the star!

Rob admits the steamy video which put him in the headlines was a mistake he would rather forget and he has agreed to do 15 hours a week community service for two years, touring schools to lecture youngsters on drug abuse.

But his latest movie will do little to help the 26-year-old actor shake off his image as the body boy of Hollywood. For in *Bad Influence*, Rob is cast as playboy Alex, an amoral drifter. And ironically, the character secretly videotapes his friend having a sexual fling!

Rob, who starred in *About Last Night* and *St Elmo's Fire*, is quick to defend the similarity between the film's plot and the scandal which almost wrecked his career.

He says: "I hope people are not stupid enough to believe that this movie is the Rob Lowe story. Everybody was talking about the parallels but I was not as blown away by them as some people."

"What's the big deal? Tons of people use video tapes."

When the news broke last year that Rob had video-taped steamy sex sessions involving a 16-year-old schoolgirl Jan Parsons, many movie bosses were hesitant to offer him roles... especially when a survey of American women revealed that 68 per cent would not be watching any more of his films!

Thousands of copies of the steamy home movie shot in an Atlanta hotel room during the Democratic convention in July 1988 changed hands for \$1,200 each. And Rob narrowly escaped a 20-year jail sentence for the sexual exploitation of a minor, had criminal charges been filed.

He says now: "There was nothing wrong with my ethics. It was just bad judgment. I made a mistake and part of being a man is having the courage to face those mistakes."

"That was my mistake in not seeing a situation developing. Bad judgment covers all aspects of it."

He is a little bitter that others have benefited from his bad publicity. He says: "There's this guy in New York selling the tape and making a fortune. I heard he'd made over half a million dollars. I think that's just sick."

Although Rob may have lost many



His new movie will do little to clean up Rob Lowe's 'bad boy' image. Here he is in a scene from *Bad Influence* with Lisa Zane.



Rob Lowe and James Spader co-star with Lisa Zane in the psychological thriller *Bad Influence*.

Influence, Steve Tisch, still believes casting him as the handsome drifter could make the film a big hit. He says: "Heightened curiosity about Rob could translate into good box-office. Selfishly, I hope the film performs well."

"If it is a success, then Rob will remain employable in this town for a long time."

Oddly enough, Rob's co-star in *Bad Influence* is James Spader who made a big hit in sex-lies-and-videotapes as Graham, who videos girls talking about sex.

In *Bad Influence*, Spader plays Michael, a successful marketing analyst climbing the corporate ladder with amazing dexterity. When he meets Alex, the charming and unpredictable

drifter, it is a case of opposites attracting, although Michael knows Alex will be a "bad influence."

Alex exposes the play-by-the-rules yuppie Michael to the wild underground club scene in Los Angeles. And life becomes a series of late nights, parties and hangovers...until Michael finds himself in the middle of a nightmare.

Producer Tisch says: "Rob's character is the classic guy our parents warned us to stay away from."

Rob adds: "He has a line in the movie that I particularly like where he says, 'People walk through their whole lives playing innocent until the day they die. But they're not. No one is innocent.'"

"And it's true. Everyone is bad, everyone is good, everyone makes mis-

takes. Everyone's God, everyone is the Devil."

"It's all within us and to pretend that you're just one way or the other...to pretend that you're godly would be just as wrong as pretending you're purely the Devil. There are many shades of grey in all of us and a lot of people try to pretend to be things they're not."

"Most people are not willing to look into themselves and see that a dark side does exist. Alex is very willing to do so and that's what makes him somewhat appealing and seductive to Michael. He's never met anyone quite like Alex."

"I think people will definitely look at me in a different way after this film. My choice to play Alex rather than Michael sends a message to the community and



Actors Rob Lowe and James Spader team up for *Bad Influence*.

to the audience not to pigeonhole me in any way."

"I think it is about time I played a villain and this guy really has no soul."

Rob, who was raised in Ohio, got into acting as a child in summer theatre, commercials and local television. He says: "I started acting when I was about nine. I went to see the musical *Oliver!* and I thought, 'That would be really fun to do.'"

At 17 and a veteran of more than 30 stage plays, Rob was offered a part in Francis Ford Coppola's *The Outsiders*. His young co-stars included Tom Cruise, Patrick Swayze, Emilio Estevez and Matt Dillon. The movie marked the beginning of Rob's Brat Packer image.

But he is determined to lose that tag. He says: "Brat Pack's just a phrase that is handy for critics. It's a romantic notion that we all hang around together, but it's just not true at all."

And despite his bizarre new role, the actor whose lovers have included Princess Stephanie of Monaco, Irangate secretary Fawn Hall and even pop star Grace Jones, is trying to put last year's scandal behind him.

He says: "Today things look real good. I feel better about myself in every respect than I have in the past. I feel like I've grown up 10 years in the past few months."

"I want to live each day as if it is my last. I work hard and I play hard. Very hard. I've got a lot of energy and I try to fit as much as I can into a day."

"I don't think people are any less effective as role models if they make mistakes."

And teeny-idol Rob Lowe is the first to admit he's no angel...even though the world already knows that!

Cinco de Mayo (May 5th)

Directions: Draw a line from the words in Column A to the English meanings in Column B. Use these pairs to solve the message. Place the letter of the pair in the box below the number. A letter may be used more than once.

Column A

1. enero
2. febrero
3. marzo
4. abril
5. mayo
6. junio
7. julio
8. agosto
9. septiembre
10. octubre
11. noviembre
12. diciembre

Column B

- a. January
- c. June
- d. November
- e. March
- h. August
- i. May
- l. October
- m. February
- n. July
- o. September
- x. April
- y. December

Message

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A					A	

8	9	10	5	11	1	12
				A		

Questions you'd like to ask

How can I change the way I feel?

Sometimes it's hard. Often you can change the way you feel by thinking differently. You may feel sad when your parents go out and leave you with a babysitter. You'll probably feel better when you remember that this particular babysitter knows how to do magic tricks and tells great bedtime stories. Sometimes a change of activity can change the way you feel. When you act happy, you're more likely to *feel* happy.

I dried my last tear.
I swear not to be seen.
I am leaving this world,
looking for my sweet home.

I climbed the clouds into the sky.
I counted the stars to keep my eyes
alive.

The wind keeps telling me,
it is my destiny calling me:

Then I know I will never smile again

Is it a good or bad life I have,
or is it death which will save my life.

Never smile again

Now I realise how precious the life I
used to have was,
in my new world I miss everything nice.

Where is the best friend I used to have,
loneliness surrounds me ever more.

I cry mother, father, come back and
take me,
noon seems to hear my cry.

There is no sun.

there are no stars, darkness covers the
town

Then I know I'll never smile again

I hate this world and hate to be alone,
I wish I could go back to my real world.

A wish which will never come true.
I will lie alone

Nessar Mohammed

Dear Junior Readers,

Kuwait is currently producing a number of plays being shown locally. Do you know the history of the theatres?

Theatre as we know it first developed in Greece as part of religious observance. The stage was simply a circle of turf on which the worshippers danced around the altar of Dionysus. The spot was usually at the foot of a hill so that the spectators on the slopes could watch the dancing.

This started the tradition of Greek theatres — semicircles of seats built into a hillside. In fact, the word "theatre" is of Greek origin and means "a place for seeing."

A theatre built in Athens about 500 B.C. has a circular place, called the orchestra, where the performance was given. Erected behind the circle of the orchestra was a dignified-looking stage building. It was used as dressing place for the performers. This "skene" (from which comes the word "scene") served as background for the

action of the play. Very little scenery was used by the Greeks, and no artificial lighting was needed, because the plays were presented in the daytime.

The first permanent stone was built in Rome in 528 B.C. The theatres of the Romans were similar to those of the Greeks, except that they were built on level ground. The Romans were the first to fill the orchestra with seats and present the play on a raised stage behind which was the "skene."

After the Roman world turned Christian, no theatres were built for about a thousand years. The first modern theatre was the Teatro Farnese at Parma, Italy. It was built in 1618 or 1619. Its stage, instead of projecting far out into the orchestra, was built into one of the walls. A curtain was used to separate the stage from the auditorium, so that changes of scenery could be made out of sight of the audience.

Manal

Did you know?

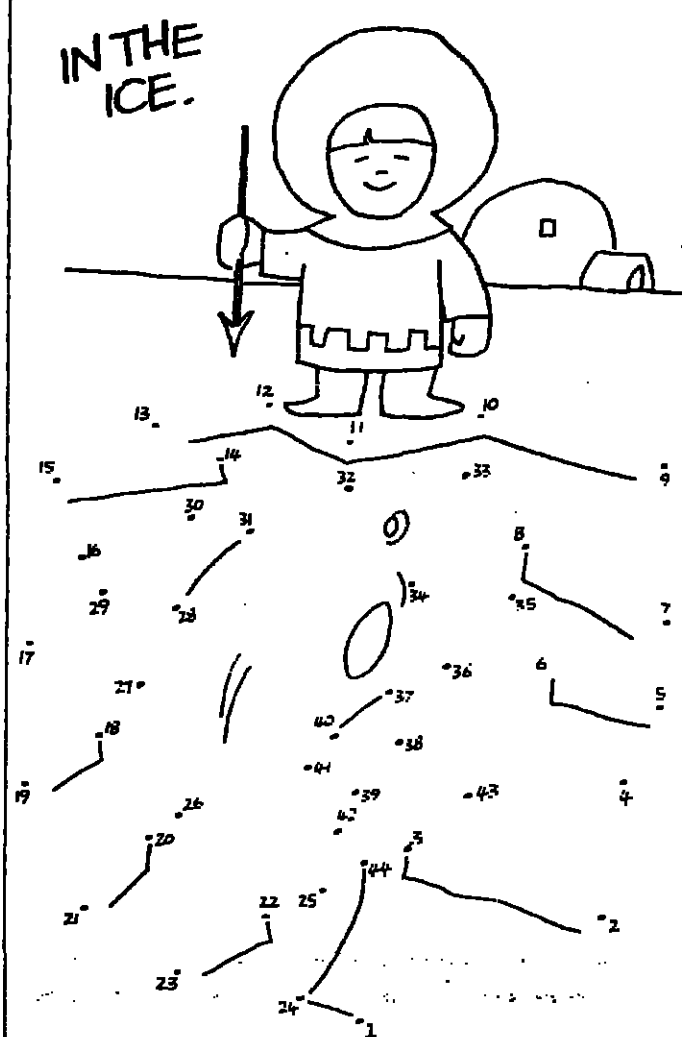
Scientists think that all the land on earth was first joined into one large mass called Pangaea. The continents we know today were created when Pangaea broke up.

The red flag with the ham-

mer and sickle symbols of the USSR was first used in 1917.

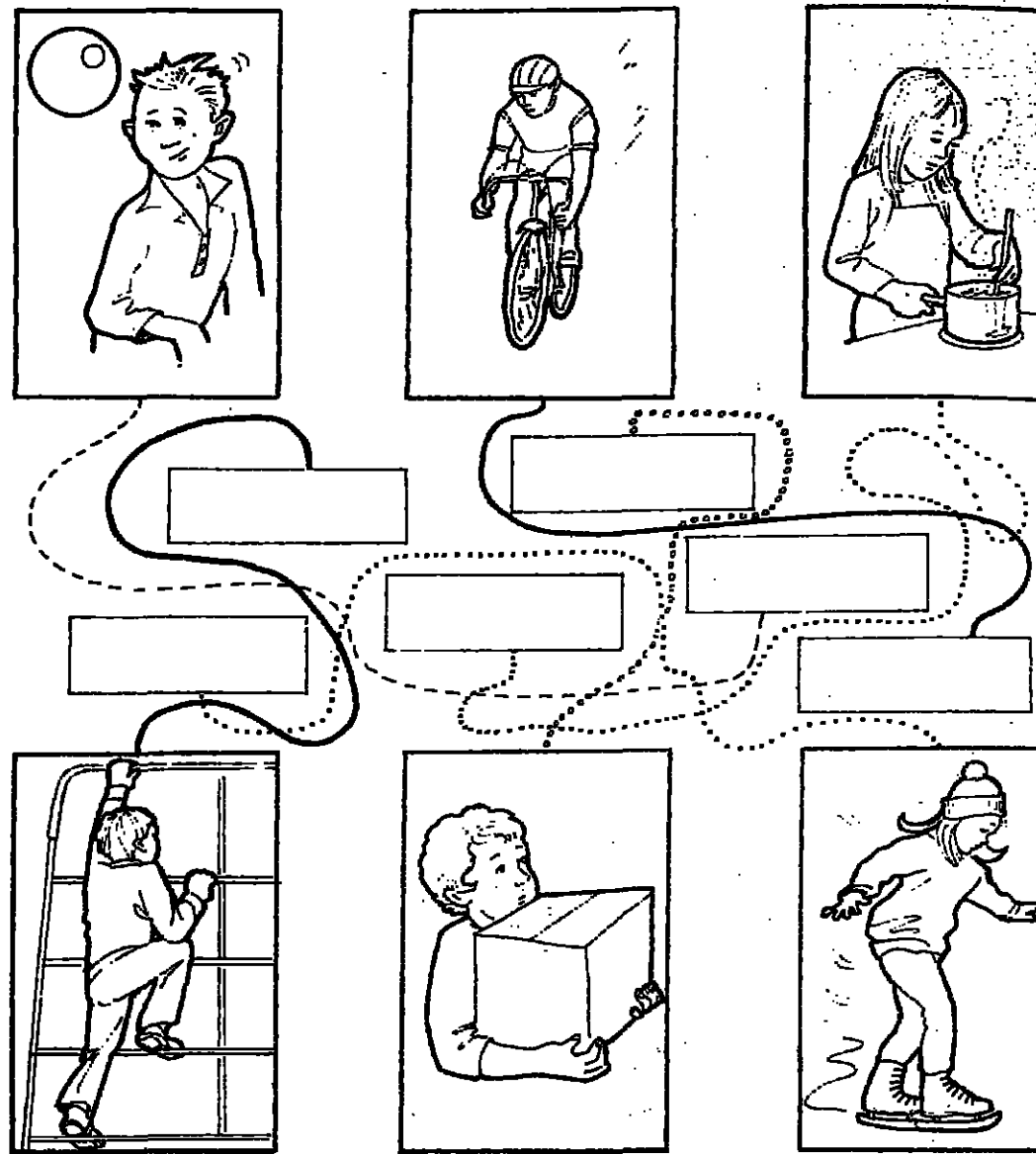
In March, 1978, Vladimir Remek of Czechoslovakia became the first non-American or non-Russian in space when he flew in Soyuz XXVIII.

Join the dots



Actions 1

What are they doing?
Use a different colour for each person.



BUILDING SITE

PALE
PANE
RAIL
RUSE
AISLE
ARCATURE
ARCH
AREA
BAY
COTS
EAVE
ESTANCIA
ESTATE
FACADE
FACES
FELT

GRILL
HIGH
INTER
LET
LIGHTS
LOGGIA
NOTCH
OGEE
ORIEL
TILE

PALE
PANE
RAIL
RUSE
AISLE
ARCATURE
ARCH
AREA
BAY
COTS
EAVE
ESTANCIA
ESTATE
FACADE
FACES
FELT

GRILL
HIGH
INTER
LET
LIGHTS
LOGGIA
NOTCH
OGEE
ORIEL
TILE

T	R	A	V	S	S	L	T	I	G	E
L	A	O	H	O	R	I	E	L	E	
B	I	E	G	R	I	L	L	N	P	
L	L	G	I	E	S	E	A	V	E	
F	I	K	H	I	E	P	P	U	T	
A	R	C	A	T	U	R	E	H	I	
C	R	I	A	T	S	E	C	A	F	
A	O	T	S	E	T	T	L	E	F	
D	S	S	A	L	O	N	H	R	O	
E	S	T	A	N	C	I	A	A	S	

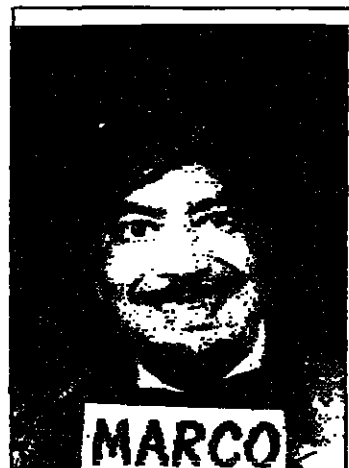
Clue: Garden shed (3 letters)

Congratulations

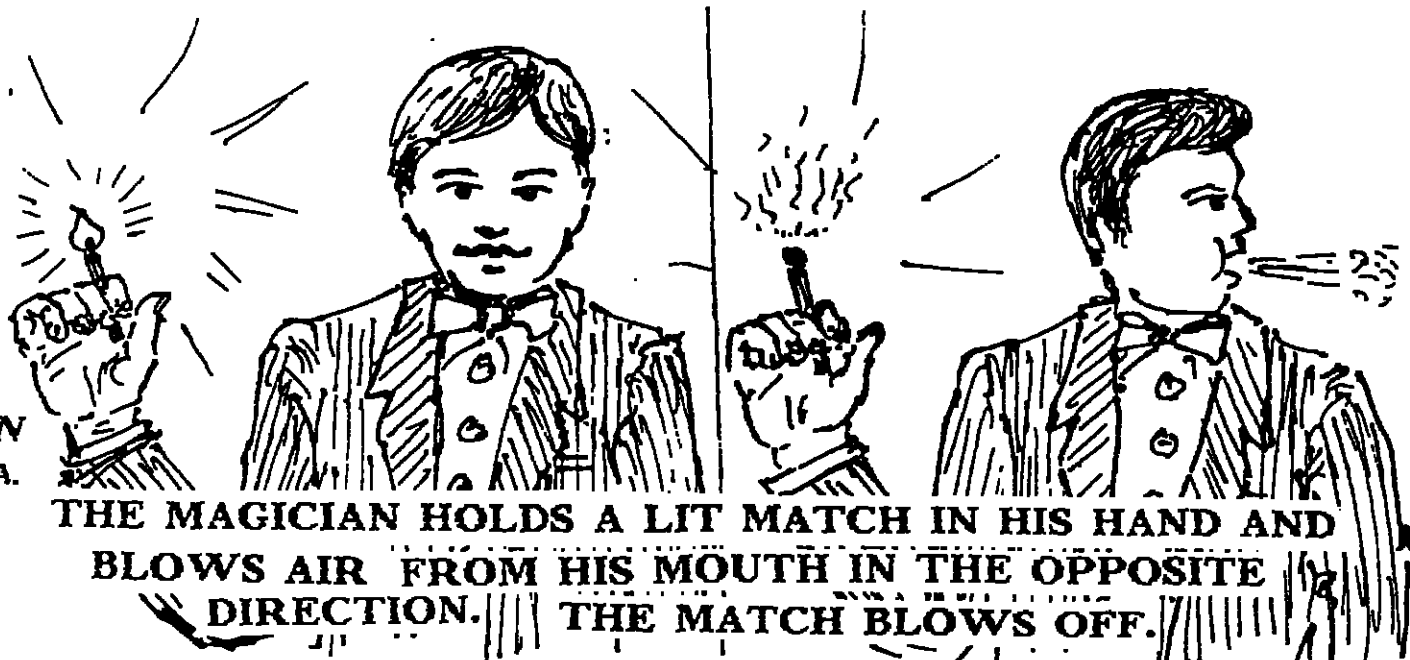


Faraz Akhtar of International School of Pakistan stood second in the second class scoring 577/600.

THE MYSTERIOUS MATCH OFF:



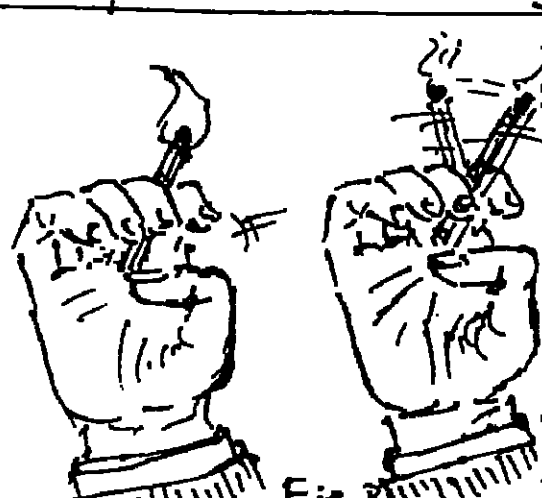
THE MAGICIAN
403708, GOA, INDIA.



SECRET:

HOLD THE BURNING MATCH AS SHOWN IN FIG "A".

WHILE BLOWING STRIKE THE BOTTOM OF THE MATCH WITH THUMB AS SHOWN IN FIG "B".



REMEMBER: DO NOT LOOK AT THE MATCH WHILE STRIKING. TRY TO MISDIRECT YOUR AUDIENCE BY BLOWING AIR ON THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.

CAUTION: ALL FIRE MAGIC IS DANGEROUS

Circus criss-cross

The words listed below are all things that you might see at the circus. Can you fit them into the grid by counting the empty squares and working out where each one goes?

One word has been filled in already to give you a start.

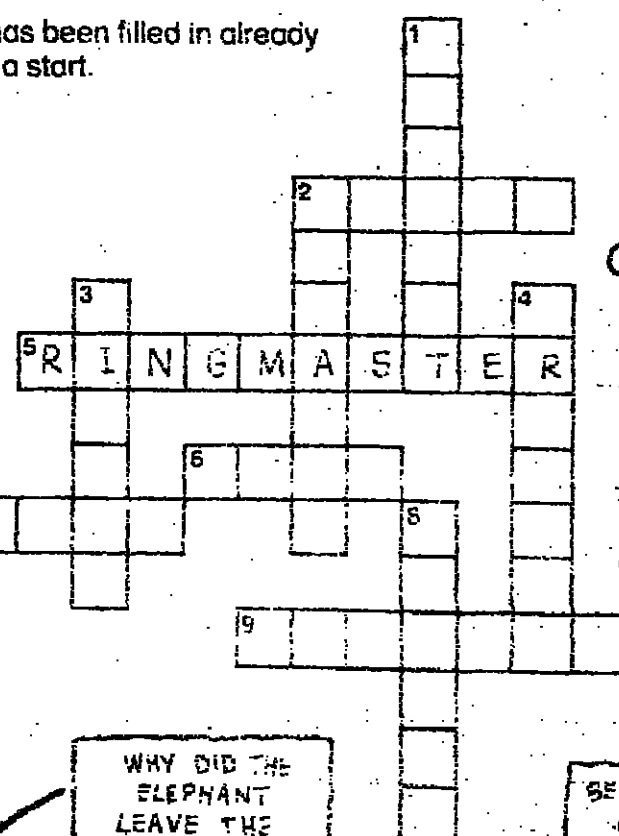
4 letters
SEAL

5 letters
CLOWN

6 letters
BIG TOP
MONKEY
TICKET

7 letters
ACROBAT
CARAVAN
JUGGLER
TRAPEZE

10 letters
RINGMASTER



WHY DID THE ELEPHANT LEAVE THE CIRCUS?

BECAUSE HE WAS TIRED OF WORKING FOR PEANUTS!



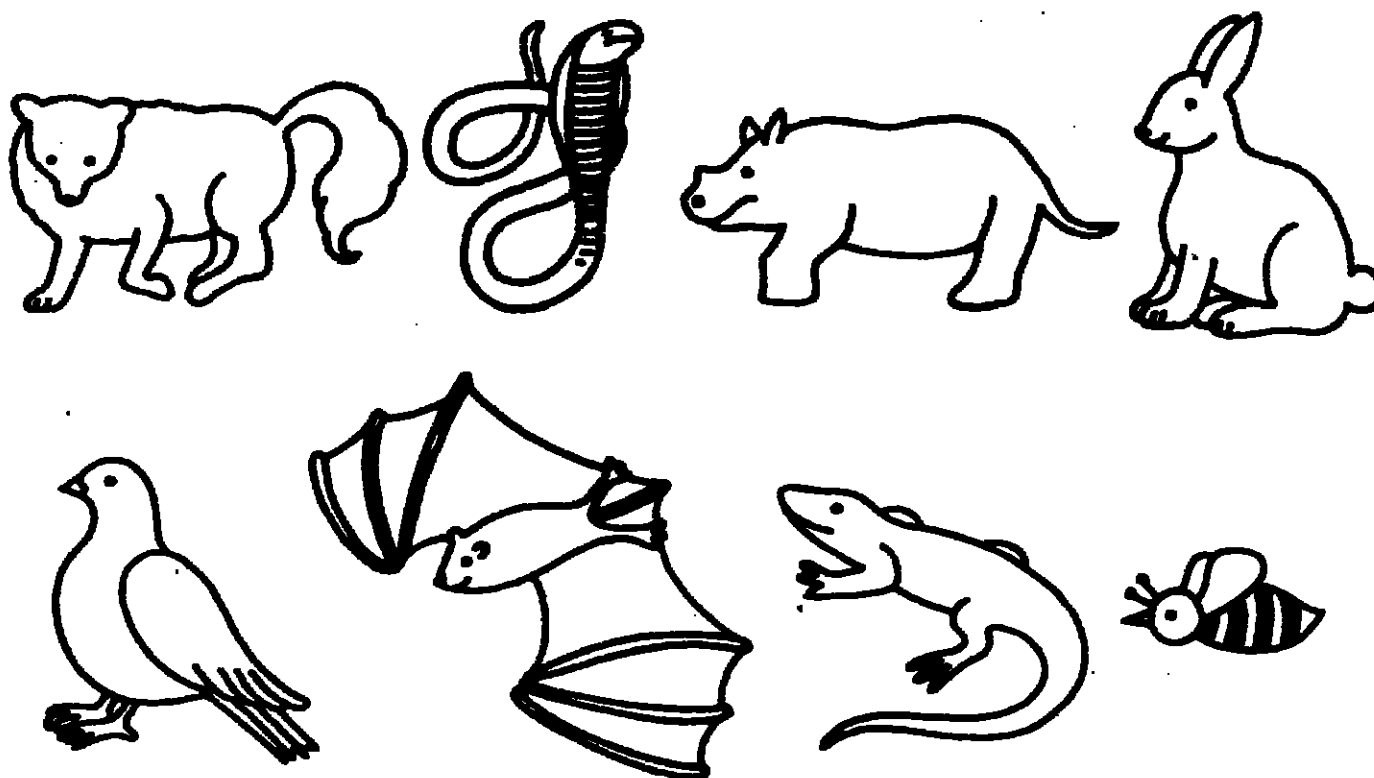
Little Grey Rabbit's larder

Find the six carrots hidden in the picture. Now draw some other objects on the shelves to complete the picture.



Walking, flying, swimming and climbing

Animals move in different ways. In each group, colour in the animal which moves in a different way from the other animals.

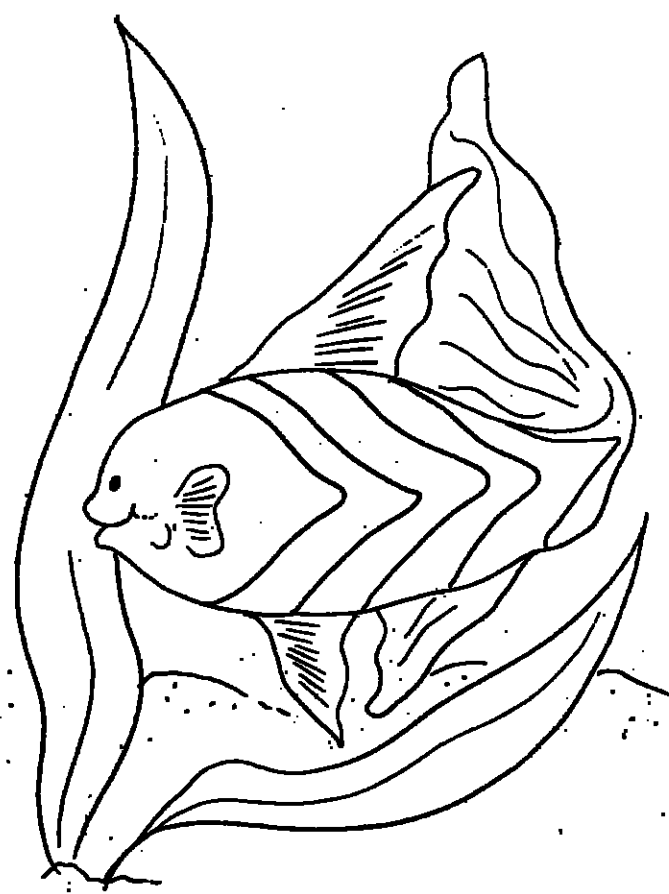


Name the Flowers ...



... from these pictures.

Colouring time



TROPICAL FISH

Just for laughs!

'What would you like for your birthday, Sis?'
'I'd like a dress to match the colour of my eyes.'
'Would you? Where am I going to get a bloodshot frock?'

'My boyfriend says I look like a dishy Italian!' said Miss Conceited.
'He's right,' said her brother.
'Sophia Loren?'
'No — spaghetti!'

'Is my dinner hot?' asked the excessively late husband.
'It should be,' said his furious wife, 'it's been on the fire since seven o'clock!'

'Mum, now that I'm fifteen, can I wear lipstick and mascara and perfume and pluck my eyebrows and get my hair waved?'
'No, James, you may not.'

Amazing facts

Women of the Jos Plateau, Togoland, Africa, make known their married status by wearing a small bustle of plaited straw.

In Chaouen, in Northern Morocco you can see snow on trees and rooftops during the summer.

Before evolving his theory of relativity, Albert Einstein had worked as a clerk in a patents office.

The paradise fish of Thailand builds its nest underwater, bringing air from the surface and saliva to create a nest of bubbles.

Fireflies are bright enough to shine through the stomach of a frog.

The first adhesive postage stamps (the Penny Blacks) came into use in England on May 6, 1840.

A Doberman dog once tracked a stock thief 100 miles by scent alone across the Great Karroo, South Africa.

Flies take off with a backward jump.

A half-breed fox terrier living in Sydney, Australia hates cats and has killed ten, but has kidnapped a ginger kitten and looks after it like a puppy and won't give it up to its mother.

Before 1920 it was rare for trucks to move faster than 10 mph.

Pepi II was Pharaoh in Egypt for ninety-four years.

Happy birthday



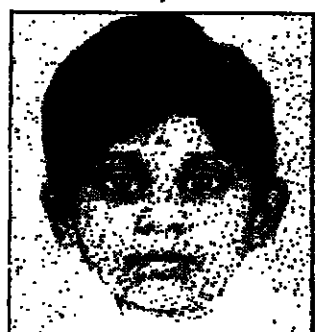
Mayank Nanda turns 2 on May 5.



Suhail Vilakkiri turned 5 on May 3.



Savio D'Souza turned 9 on May 3.



Asha Edinard turned 5 May 8.



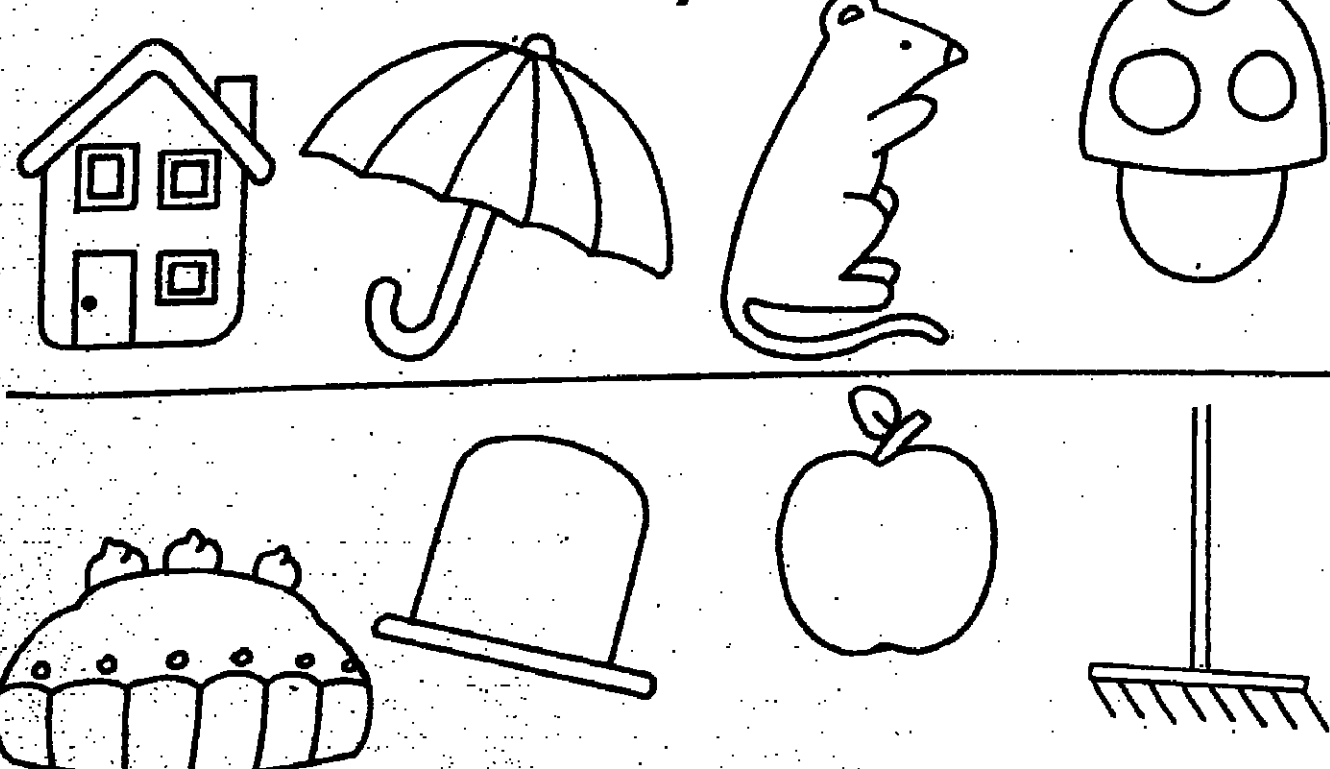
Mubin Al Rashid turned 4 on April 30.



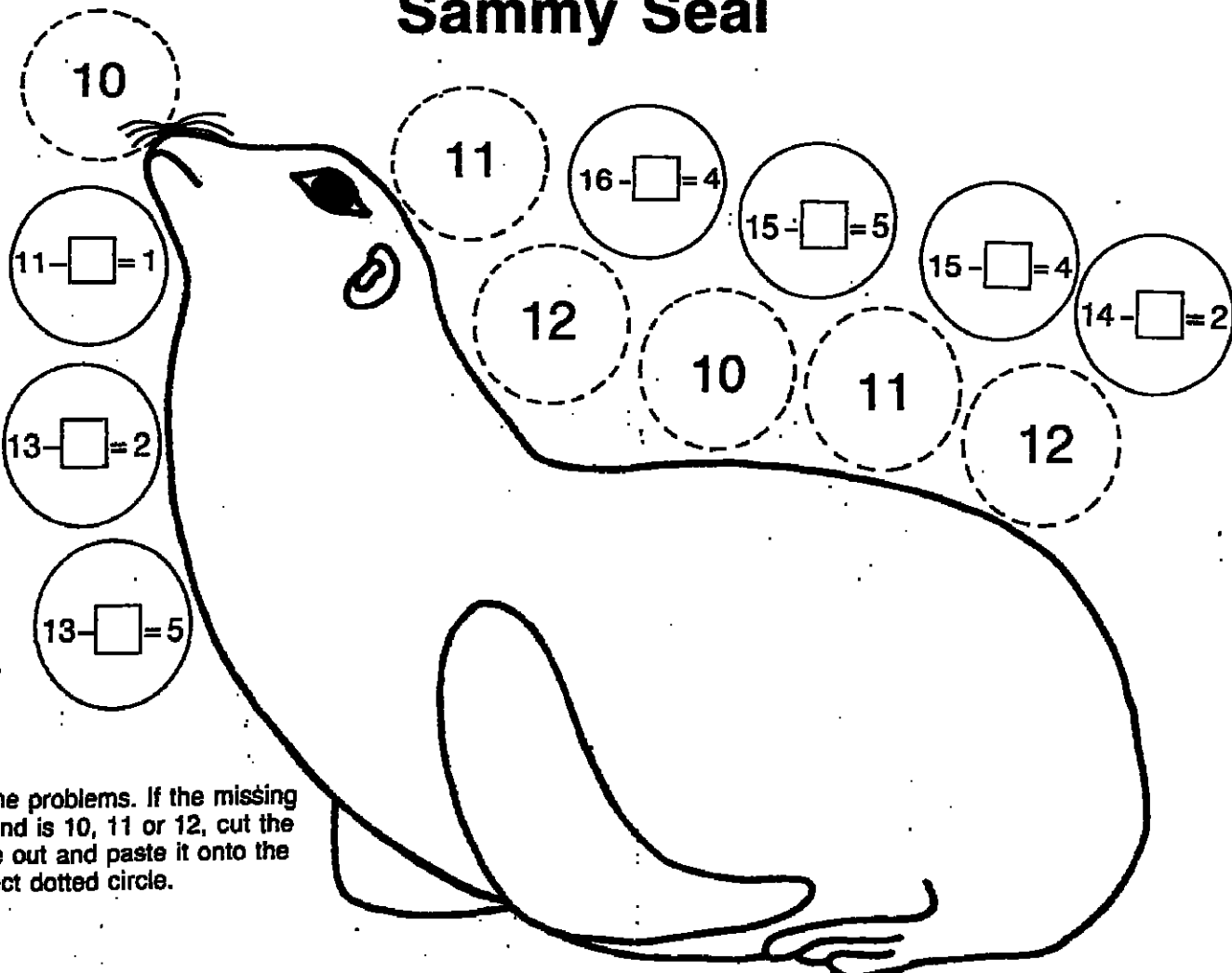
Afrah Sherif turned 11 on May 7.

Find the words in each line that sound same.

Rhymes



Sammy Seal



Do the problems. If the missing addend is 10, 11 or 12, cut the circle out and paste it onto the correct dotted circle.

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

MARKET PLACE

Al Ibrahim Taxi
Tel. 2400013, 2400014, 2400015
Forwaniya brand.
Tel. 4745600, 4745900

FOR RENT
Villas, half villas and flats with swimming pool
Tel: 2401808 - 2407677
2451489 - 2451476
FAX 2403260
The All Real Estate

AL-FAJER TAXI
Salmiya
TEL: 5747588
5747587
5747599
Call Taxi

GENERAL SERVICE
For all your shifting with transportation, painting, wall papering carpet & villa cleaning. We are at your service, with skilled workers. We are also buying and selling furniture.
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De Mos wants to beat Sampdoria

Maradona ready for World Cup

1. *Chlorophyll *a** and *Chlorophyll *b** were determined by the method of Arar and Collins (1971).